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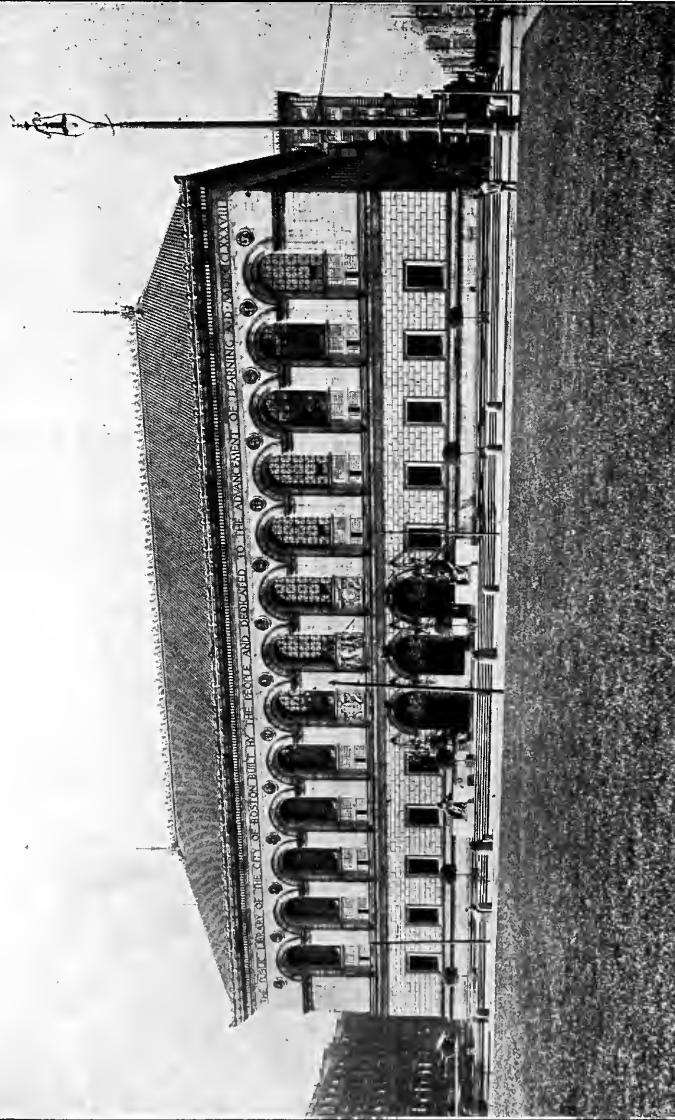






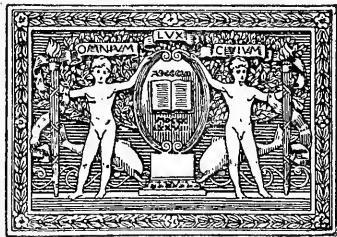
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CENTRAL LIBRARY BUILDING.



SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES
OF THE
PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

1916-1917



BOSTON
PUBLISHED BY THE TRUSTEES
1917



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Boston Public Library
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Yankee Doodle
and the
Colonial Melody

TRUSTESS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ON FEBRUARY 1, 1917.

JOSIAH H. BENTON, *President.*

Term expires April 30, 1919.

ARTHUR T. CONNOLLY. ALEXANDER MANN.
Term expires April 30, 1917. Term expires April 30, 1920.

SAMUEL CARR. WILLIAM F. KENNEY.
Term expires April 30, 1918. Term expires April 30, 1921.

LIBRARIAN.
HORACE G. WADLIN.

ORGANIZATION OF THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT.

The Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston, organized in 1852, are now incorporated under the provisions of Chapter 114, of the Acts of 1878, as amended. The Board for 1852 was a preliminary organization; that for 1853 made the first annual report. At first the Board consisted of one alderman and one common councilman and five citizens at large, until 1867, when a revised ordinance made it to consist of one alderman, two common councilmen and six citizens at large, two of whom retired, unless re-elected, each year, while the members from the City Council were elected yearly. In 1878 the organization of the Board was changed to include one alderman, one councilman, and five citizens at large, as before 1867; and in 1885, by the provisions of the amended city charter, the representation of the City Government upon the Board by an alderman and a councilman was abolished, leaving the Board as at present, consisting of five citizens at large, appointed by the Mayor, for five-year terms, the term of one member expiring each year. The following citizens at large have been members of the Board since its organization in 1852:

ABBOTT, SAMUEL APPLETON BROWNE, A.M., 1879-95.
APPLETON, THOMAS GOLD, A.M., 1852-56.
BENTON, JOSIAH HENRY, LL.D., 1894-
BIGELOW, JOHN PRESCOTT, A.M., 1852-68.
BOWDITCH, HENRY INGERSOLL, M.D., 1865-67.
BOWDITCH, HENRY PICKERING, M.D., 1894-1902.
BOYLE, THOMAS FRANCIS, 1902-12.
BRAMAN, JARVIS DWIGHT, 1869-72.
BRETT, JOHN ANDREW, 1912-16.
CARR, SAMUEL, 1895-96, 1908-
CHASE, GEORGE BIGELOW, A.M., 1876-85.
CLARKE, JAMES FREEMAN, D.D., 1878-88.
CONNOLLY, ARTHUR THOMAS, 1916-
CURTIS, DANIEL SARGENT, A.M., 1873-75.
DENORMANDIE, JAMES, D.D., 1895-1908.
DWIGHT, THOMAS, M.D., 1899-1908.
EVERETT, EDWARD, LL.D., 1852-64.
FROTHINGHAM, RICHARD, LL.D., 1875-79.
GREEN, SAMUEL ABBOTT, M.D., 1868-78.
GREENOUGH, WILLIAM WHITWELL, 1856-88.
HAYNES, HENRY WILLIAMSON, A.M., 1880-94.

HILLARD, GEORGE STILLMAN, LL.D., 1872-75; 76-77.
KENNEY, WILLIAM FRANCIS, A.M., 1908-
LEWIS, WESTON, 1868-79.
LEWIS, WINSLOW, M.D., 1867.
LINCOLN, SOLOMON, A.M., 1897-1907.
MANN, ALEXANDER, D.D., 1908-
MORTON, ELLIS WESLEY, 1870-73.
PIERCE, PHINEAS, 1888-94.
PRINCE, FREDERICK OCTAVIUS, A.M., 1888-99.
PUTNAM, GEORGE, D.D., 1868-77.
RICHARDS, WILLIAM REUBEN, A.M., 1889-95.
SHURTLEFF, NATHANIEL BRADSTREET, 1852-68.
THOMAS, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, LL.D., 1877-78.
TICKNOR, GEORGE, LL.D., 1852-66.
WALKER, FRANCIS AMASA, LL.D., 1896.
WHIPPLE, EDWIN PERCY., A.M., 1867-70.
WHITMORE, WILLIAM HENRY, A.M., 1885-88.
WINSOR, JUSTIN, LL.D., 1867-68.

The HON. EDWARD EVERETT was President of the Board from 1852 to 1864; GEORGE TICKNOR, in 1865; WILLIAM W. GREENOUGH, from 1866 to April, 1888; PROF. HENRY W. HAYNES, from May 7, 1888, to May 12, 1888; SAMUEL A. B. ABBOTT, May 12, 1888, to April 30, 1895; HON. F. O. PRINCE, October 8, 1895, to May 8, 1899; SOLOMON LINCOLN, May 12, 1899, to October 15, 1907; REV. JAMES DE NORMANDIE, January 31, 1908, to May 8, 1908; JOSIAH H. BENTON, since May 8, 1908.

LIBRARIANS.

(From 1858 to 1877, the chief executive officer was entitled Superintendent.)

CAPEN, EDWARD, *Librarian*, May 13, 1852 - December 16, 1874.
JEWETT, CHARLES C., *Superintendent*, 1858 - January 9, 1868.
WINSOR, JUSTIN, LL.D., *Superintendent*, February 25, 1868 - September 30, 1877.
GREEN, SAMUEL A., M.D., *Trustee, Acting Librarian*, October 1, 1877 - September 30, 1878.
CHAMBERLAIN, MELLEN, LL.D., *Librarian*, October 1, 1878 - September 30, 1890.
DWIGHT, THEODORE F., *Librarian*, April 13, 1892 - April 30, 1894.
PUTNAM, HERBERT, LL.D., *Librarian*, February 11, 1895 - April 30, 1899.
WHITNEY, JAMES L., A.M., *Acting Librarian*, March 31, 1899 - December 21, 1899; *Librarian*, December 22, 1899 - January 31, 1903.
WADLIN, HORACE G., LITT.D., *Librarian*, since February 1, 1903.

LIBRARY SYSTEM, FEBRUARY 1, 1917.

DEPARTMENTS.	OPENED.
†Central Library, Copley Sq.	May 2, 1854
†East Boston Branch, 276-282 Meridian St.	Jan. 28, 1871
§South Boston Branch, 372 Broadway	May 1, 1872
||Roxbury Branch, 46 Millmont St.	July, 1873
†Charlestown Branch, Monument Sq.	*Jan., 1874
†Brighton Branch, Academy Hill Rd.	*Jan., 1874
‡Dorchester Branch, Arcadia, cor. Adams St.	Jan. 25, 1874
§South End Branch, 397 Shawmut Ave.	Aug., 1877
†Jamaica Plain Branch, Sedgwick, cor. South St.	Sept., 1877
‡West Roxbury Branch, Centre, near Mt. Vernon St.	*Jan. 6, 1880
‡Codman Square Branch, Washington, cor. Norfolk St.	*Nov. 1, 1914
†West End Branch, Cambridge, cor. Lynde St.	Feb. 1, 1896
‡Upham's Corner Branch, Columbia Rd., cor. Bird St.	Mar. 16, 1896
†Hyde Park Branch, Harvard Ave., cor. Winthrop St.	*Jan. 1, 1912
†North End Branch, 3A North Bennet St.	Feb. 27, 1913
§Station A. Lower Mills Reading Room, Washington St.	June 7, 1875
§ " B. Roslindale Reading Room, Washington St., cor. Ashland St.	Dec. 3, 1878
§ " D. Mattapan Reading Room, 727 Walk Hill St.	Dec. 27, 1881
§ " E. Neponset Reading Room, 362 Neponset Ave.	Jan. 1, 1883
§ " F. Mt. Bowdoin Reading Room, Washington, cor. Eldon St.	Nov. 1, 1886
§ " G. Allston Reading Room, 6 Harvard Ave.	Mar. 11, 1889
‡ " N. Mt. Pleasant Reading Room, Vine, cor. Dudley St.	Apr. 29, 1892
‡ " P. Tyler Street Reading Room, Tyler, cor. Oak St.	Jan. 16, 1896
§ " R. Warren Street Reading Room, 392 Warren St.	May 1, 1896
§ " S. Roxbury Crossing Reading Room, 1154 Tremont St.	Jan. 18, 1897
§ " T. Boylston Station Reading Room, The Lamartine, Depot Sq.	Nov. 1, 1897
§ " Y. Andrew Square Reading Room, 396 Dorchester St.	Mar. 5, 1914
§ " Z. Orient Heights Reading Room, 1030 Bennington St.	June 25, 1901
‡ " 23. City Point Reading Room, Municipal Building, Broadway	July 18, 1906
§ " 24. Parker Hill Reading Room, 1518 Tremont St.	July 15, 1907
† " 25. Faneuil Reading Room, 100 Brooks St.	Mar. 4, 1914

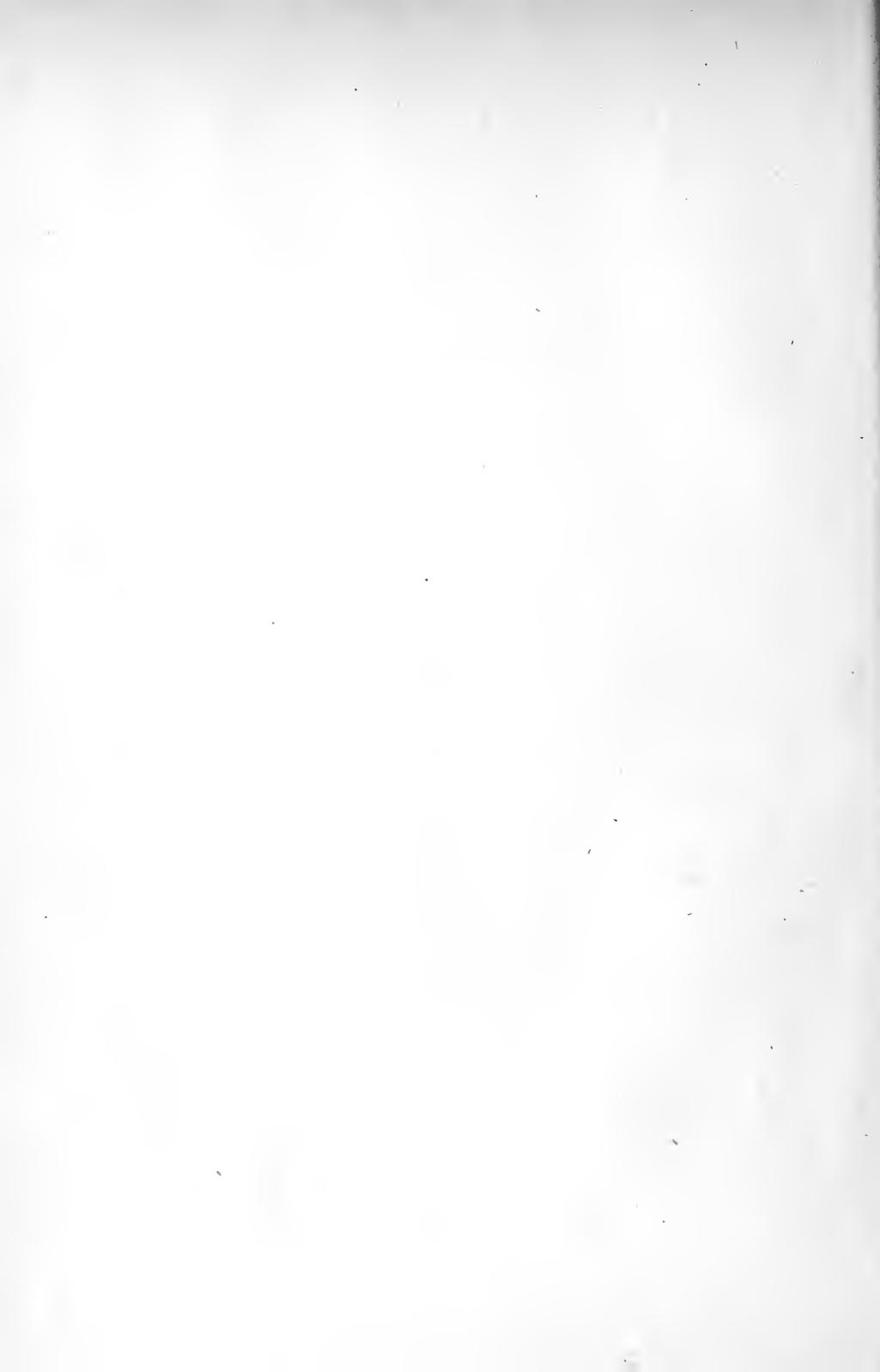
¶ In the case of the Central Library and some of the branches and stations the opening was in a different location from that now occupied. * As a branch. † In building owned by City, and exclusively devoted to library uses. ‡ In City building, in part devoted to other municipal uses. § Occupies rented rooms. || The lessee of the Fellowes Atheneum, a private library association.

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Central Library Building	Frontispiece
Map of the Library System	At the end



To His Honor James M. Curley,
Mayor of the City of Boston:

SIR, — The Board of Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston present the following report of its condition and affairs for the year ending January 31, 1917, being their sixty-fifth annual report.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD.

The Board organized on May 19, 1916, by the election of Josiah H. Benton as President, William F. Kenney, Vice President, and Della Jean Deery, Clerk.

William F. Kenney was reappointed and qualified for the term ending April 30, 1921. John A. Brett, a member of the Board, resigned May 17, and to the vacancy thus created Rev. Arthur T. Connolly was appointed, and qualified for the term ending April 30, 1917.

Mr. Brett had been a member of the Board for nearly five years. Resolutions in appreciation of his valuable service have been placed upon the permanent records of the Trustees.

RECEIPTS OF THE LIBRARY.

The receipts of the Library are of two classes: First, those which are to be expended by the Trustees in the maintenance of the Library. These consist of the annual appropriation by the City Council, and the income from Trust Funds, given to the Trustees but invested by the City Treasurer under the direction of the Finance Committee of the City. During the past year these receipts were as follows:

Second, receipts which are accounted for and paid into the City treasury for general municipal purposes. These receipts, during the year, have been as follows:

From fines	\$7,089.38
From sales of catalogues, etc.	80.00
From telephone commissions	320.03
From sales of waste	323.44
From sale of paper towels	63.27
From interest on bank deposits	26.13
From payments for lost books	426.27
From money found in the Library	18.07
 Total	 \$8,346.59

A balance sheet showing all the receipts and expenditures of the Library Department in detail is hereinafter contained.

CITY APPROPRIATION.

Nearly all the money which the Trustees can use for the maintenance and working of the Library system comes from the annual appropriation by the City Council.

During the past ten years the estimates of the Trustees, the recommendations by the Mayor, and the amounts appropriated by the City Council have been as follows:

	ESTIMATES OF TRUSTEES.	AMOUNTS	
		RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR.	AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED BY CITY COUNCIL.
1907	326,100.00	325,000.00	325,000.00
1908	332,800.00	325,000.00	310,000.00
1909	335,200.00	335,200.00	349,455.00
1910	351,978.00	351,978.00	351,978.00
1911	359,497.00	355,200.00	355,200.00
1912	374,665.00	367,165.00	367,165.00
1913	391,996.00	380,000.00	380,000.00
1914	430,619.00	400,000.00	400,000.00
1915	427,688.00	407,688.00	407,688.00
1916	424,530.00	409,080.00	409,080.00

The appropriations for these ten years have averaged \$9,950. less than the estimates of the Board. In 1906 and 1910 the appropriations equalled the estimates, but in 1916 the appropriation was \$15,450 less than the estimate. This is not said by way of complaint, because we are aware of the limitations which necessarily govern the Council in making appropriations for maintenance. It is only stated to dispel the illusion which the Examining Committee and many others seem to have that the Trustees have only to ask for money to get it.

HOURS OF SERVICE.

The hours of service at the Central Library and branches remain unchanged.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

During the year 43,574 volumes have been added to the Library collection, as compared with 42,973 added in 1915. Of these, 30,354 were purchased, 9,781 were given to the Library, and the remainder were received by exchange, binding of periodicals into volumes, etc. There were purchased for the Central Library 15,142 volumes and 15,212 for the branch libraries and reading-room stations.

The total amount expended for books, including \$6,656.53 for periodicals, \$1,805.73 for newspapers, and \$962.80 for photographs, was \$46,381.56 or about 10.8 per cent of the entire expense of the Library for all purposes.

The corresponding expenditure for the year 1915 was \$48,453.18, including \$6,586.19 for periodicals, \$1,879.33 for newspapers, and \$690.58 for photographs, or, about 11.7 per cent. of the entire expense of the Library.

The average cost of all books purchased was \$1.21 per volume, as against \$1.15 in 1915. Of the books purchased 26,426 were bought from money appropriated by the City, at an average cost of \$1.01 a volume, and 3,928 were bought with the income of Trust funds, at an average cost of \$2.70 a volume. The corresponding figures for 1915 were: bought from City appropriation, 28,672; average cost \$1.05. From Trust funds income, 3,249; average cost \$2.70.

BOOK CIRCULATION AND USE OF THE LIBRARY.

There were issued during the year for direct home use 273,493 volumes at the Central Library, compared with 299,974 in 1915, and from the Central Library through the branches and stations 72,343 others, while the branches and stations issued 1,488,746 volumes for direct home use. The figures in 1915 were 79,068 and 1,531,086. There were issued from the Cen-

tral Library, branches and stations to schools and institutions 214,656 volumes, as against 224,972 in 1915, making the entire issue for use outside the buildings 2,050,238 volumes, as against 2,135,100 in 1915.

The somewhat smaller circulation for home use in 1916 as compared with 1915, is due to two causes: delay in opening the schools (on account of prevalence of infantile paralysis) which affected the school circulation directly and general home use indirectly, and the state of employment which when full, as during the past year, usually reduces the home use of books not only in this but in other public libraries. The use of books within the buildings, impracticable to record statistically, is doubtless much greater than the recorded home use. It requires half a million call slips in the Bates Hall reading-room alone.

The Trustees would urge upon business men the importance of inducing their employees to take advantage of the great resources of the Library which has been and is constantly alive to the necessity of enriching its shelves by books on technical education and business administration. The Library is keenly alive to the demands of those seeking information upon trade topics and specialized subjects, and its experts are at the command of those who need them to unlock the stores of the Library on any business subject.

BINDING AND REPAIR OF BOOKS.

During the year 41,863 volumes have been bound in the Bindery, as against 44,543 in 1915. Beside this, a large amount of miscellaneous work has been completed, such as the folding, stitching and trimming of 164,973 library publications, compared with 158,144 in 1915, and the mounting of maps and photographs, the repairing of books, and making of periodical covers, etc. The expense of performing this necessary miscellaneous work is equivalent to about 17 per cent of the total expense of the Department. The ability to do it promptly in our own Bindery, greatly promotes the convenience, economy and efficiency of the library work.

LIBRARY COÖPERATION WITH SCHOOLS, ETC.

The Trustees continue to coöperate with the educational work of the schools, and during the past year, the Library has supplied with books 30 branches and reading-room stations, 161 public and parochial schools, 62 engine houses and 36 other institutions, and sends out upon the average from the Central Library, about 400 volumes every day by its delivery wagons. The number of volumes sent on deposit from the Central Library through the branch system was 52,024 of which 10,870 were sent to schools. There were also sent from the branches themselves and from two of the largest reading-room stations 61,570 volumes on deposit, distributed among 198 places. Of these, 27,530 were sent to schools. That is to say, not only is the collection of the Central Library used as a reservoir from which books may be drawn for use in the branches and reading-room stations, but each of the branches and reading-room stations is in itself a reservoir from which books are drawn for use by teachers in schools in its immediate vicinity.

NEW BUILDING ON BLAGDEN STREET.

The construction plans for the proposed addition to the Central Library were submitted to the Board and accepted February 11. Proposals for the erection of the building were solicited by advertisement, and opened, April 7 and the contracts were awarded to the lowest bidders, as follows:

General construction, George Baker Long	\$125,000.00
Steam power, heating and ventilating, P. J. Sullivan Company	26,874.00
Book stack fittings, The Library Bureau	14,526.00

The work of demolition of the structures upon the lot began May 8 and the work of construction has gone forward since. The foundations have been put in and the steel superstructure together with part of the walls have been partly erected. The building is to be completed during the coming summer. Afterward the Printing and Binding Departments, now occupying leased premises, will be removed thereto, and the Branch Department, now in crowded quarters in the Central Building will be given adequate room for the transaction of its important work.

The remainder of the new building will be devoted to stacks for the shelving of books, thus relieving the crowded condition of our present stacks, and giving opportunity for future growth.

TRUST FUNDS.

The Trust Funds, that is, property given to the Trustees in trust for the uses of the Library amount to \$538,507.01. They are by law required to be invested by the City Treasurer under the direction of the Finance Committee of the City.

A detailed statement of these funds, and the income therefrom, is contained in the report of the City Auditor, but a condensed statement of them is as follows:

FUND.	AMOUNT.	RESTRICTIONS OF GIFT.
Artz . . .	\$ 10,000.00	For the purchase of valuable and rare editions of the writings, either in verse or prose, of American and of foreign authors, "to be known as the Longfellow Memorial Collection."
Bates . . .	50,000.00	To buy "books of permanent value."
Bigelow . . .	1,000.00	Purchase of books.
Billings . . .	100,000.00	For the purchase of books.
Bowditch . . .	10,000.00	For "the purchase of books of permanent value and authority in mathematics and astronomy," to be added to the Bowditch collection.
Bradlee . . .	1,000.00	Unrestricted.
Center . . .	39,543.14	Unrestricted.
Clement . . .	3,600.00	For the purchase of books.
Codman . . .	2,854.41	For the purchase of books upon landscape gardening.
Cutter . . .	4,040.00	For the purchase of books and for binding for the Abram E. Cutter collection.
"Elizabeth" (under Matchett Will) .	25,000.00	For the purchase of books of "permanent value and authority."
Ford . . .	6,000.00	Unrestricted.
Franklin . . .	1,000.00	Books of permanent value, preferably books on government and political economy.
Green . . .	2,000.00	Books relating to American history.
Charlotte Harris .	10,000.00	Books for Charlestown Branch, published before 1850.
Thomas B. Harris .	1,000.00	For benefit of the Charlestown Branch.
Hyde . . .	2,000.00	Unrestricted.
Knapp . . .	10,000.00	For the purchase of books.
Abbott Lawrence .	10,000.00	Books having a permanent value.
<i>Carried forward</i>		\$289,037.55

<i>Brought forward</i>		\$289,037.55	
Edward Lawrence	500.00		"To hold and apply the income and so much of the principal as they [the Trustees] may choose to the purchase of special books of reference to be kept and used only at the Charlestown Branch of said Public Library."
Lewis . . .	5,000.00		For the purchase of old and rare books to be added to the John A. Lewis library.
Loring . . .	500.00		Memorial Fund, from the income of which books are to be bought for the West End Branch.
Mead . . .	2,500.00		Unrestricted.
O'Reilly . . .	1,000.00		From the Papyrus Club for the purchase of books as a memorial of John Boyle O'Reilly.
Phillips . . .	30,000.00		"To the maintenance of a free public library." "Purchase of books."
Pierce . . .	5,000.00		"Books of permanent value for the Bates Hall."
Scholfield . . .	61,800.00		To be used for books of permanent value.
Skinner . . .	50,050.00		Unrestricted.
South Boston . . .	100.00		For benefit of the South Boston Branch.
Ticknor . . .	4,000.00		Books in Spanish and Portuguese, five years old in some one edition.
Todd . . .	50,000.00		The income to be expended annually for current newspapers of this and other countries.
Townsend . . .	4,000.00		Books five years old in some one edition.
Treadwell . . .	13,987.69		Unrestricted.
Tufts . . .	10,131.77		For the benefit of Charlestown Branch.
Twentieth Regiment	5,000.00		"For the purchase of books of a military and patriotic character, to be placed in the alcove appropriated as a Memorial of the Twentieth Regiment."
Whitney . . .	4,900.00		For the benefit of sick and needy employees and the purchase of books.
Wilson . . .	1,000.00		For the purchase of books.
Total . . .	\$538,507.01		

The income of these Trust Funds is used mainly for the purchase of books and other library material, and the income from \$154,533.00 can be used only for books in special classes of literature or to be placed in certain designated branches or departments of the Library. The income of \$121,750.00 must be spent for books designated as of "permanent value" only. The income of only \$242,534.00 is unrestricted.

Besides the amounts enumerated, the Trustees have received and paid to the City Treasurer the sum of \$899.79 on the Alice Lincoln Whitney Fund, which fund for the time being is held in uninvested cash on deposit at interest. And they have also

paid to the Treasurer the sum of \$700.00 under the bequest of James L. Whitney, formerly librarian, to be held and used for bibliographical purposes; and from that fund \$1,169.00 has been expended for the purpose contemplated by the bequest.

DEATH OF ALLEN A. BROWN.

In the death of Mr. Allen A. Brown, on October 2, 1916, the Public Library lost one of its great benefactors. Mr. Brown was born in Boston, July 26, 1835, and was graduated from Harvard in 1860. He was prominent in musical and dramatic affairs while in college, and early began the collection of a library on each subject. He lived a quiet life, mostly as trustee of large financial interests, and made frequent journeys to Europe in connection with his trusts. He constantly increased and improved his collection of musical literature, and finally, on October 13, 1894, he gave it to the Boston Public Library. This collection was then, and is now, unique. Information is to be found in it which cannot be found anywhere else, and it is constantly consulted by musical critics and others. It is fair to say that to take the Brown Musical Collection out of Boston would be to remove a great asset of the city. From one point of view Mr. Brown was the finest benefactor the Library has had, for he gave himself to the making of what he gave to the Library. The musical collection had his constant attention even to the very end. He wove himself into this collection by work which could not be bought and which is invaluable. Others have given of their money, he also gave of his life. The dramatic collection came to the Library about seven years after the musical collection, and it is in some respects as unique as the other. Both together, they constitute a gift to the Library the value of which cannot be overestimated. He also remembered the Library as one of the residuary legatees in his last will.

Mr. Brown lived to the ripe age of 81 years. He was quiet, unassuming and loving. His relations with the Trustees and officers and employees of the Library were most pleasant, and we all feel his loss as that of a personal friend.

DECORATIONS BY MR. SARGENT.

During the year Mr. John Singer Sargent has completed the mural paintings under his contract with the city made in 1893, and they have been paid for from the appropriation for the Library building. He has also completed the larger part of the decorations which were given to the Library by citizens, and they have been installed. The cost of installation of these pictures has been about \$20,000.00 towards the payment of which the citizens have also made a gift to the city of about \$16,184.39 from the accrued interest on the subscription in their hands leaving \$3,815.61 only to be paid by the city, which has been paid and charged to the construction fund of the Library.

The subscription to the fund raised by citizens was in 1895, and the upper staircase hall of the Library building was then reserved by a resolution of the Library Trustees for Mr. Sargent's work. This subscription is quite interesting. There are six subscribers of \$1,000. each, four of \$500. each, five of \$300, five of \$200, one of \$250, one of \$150, and twenty of \$100 each, making thirty-seven in all with a total subscription amounting to \$12,850. The remainder of \$15,375, the total subscription, was by eighty different persons, in amounts varying from \$5 to \$50. Included in these was a subscription by thirty-three architects, amounting to \$500.

REQUESTS FOR NEW READING-ROOM STATIONS.

Requests for opening new reading-room stations frequently reach the Trustees, supported by petitions or communications from interested citizens. We may repeat what we said last year:

Reading rooms must be opened by special appropriation from the City Government, but when once opened they must be maintained out of the regular annual appropriation, and the expense for service, books, transportation, rent, light, heat and care is thus constantly enlarged. To increase the number of reading rooms without at the same time enlarging our financial resources, is simply *to place burdens upon the existing system*. If only a given amount of money is available for books or service, and the number of places where books must be kept or service rendered is increased, then every pre-existing place must bear its share of the diminished expenditure

in order that the new reading room may be supplied. What the Library needs for the present, and from the point of economy and efficient administration, is enlarged equipment to make more effective the operation of its present agencies of public service, rather than the establishment of new agencies.

We can only state that our policy remains as indicated in our last report. Reading-rooms come as a matter of community development and should not be established in advance as an advertisement to bring residents. What we need is more money to work our plant as it is, and with the new annex where the Branch Department can handle with greater facility the boxes for the different stations, and the excellent automobile service of the Library, our present branches and reading-rooms will be in a position to attend to the wants of the public for some time.

RESIGNATION OF MR. BIERSTADT.

Mr. Oscar A. Bierstadt, who entered our service as head of the Reference Department on February 1, 1899, resigned May 15 on account of the condition of his health. The Trustees have placed upon their records the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Board regrets the resignation, on account of ill-health, of Mr. Oscar A. Bierstadt, for seventeen years at the head of the Reference Department, and in recognition of his long, faithful and efficient service in that important position, extends to him the freedom of the Library.

RESIGNATION OF THE LIBRARIAN.

On November 10th, the Librarian, Mr. Horace G. Wadlin, tendered to the Board his resignation, which was considered, and an earnest but unavailing effort made by the Board to induce Mr. Wadlin to withdraw it. On December 22nd the Board reluctantly voted to accept the resignation, to take effect on the 1st of July, 1917, or at such earlier period as his successor might be appointed and qualified. The Trustees then adopted and entered upon their records, the following Minute:

In accepting the resignation of Mr. Horace G. Wadlin as Librarian of the Public Library of the City of Boston, the Trustees of the Library desire to place upon record their sense of the value of the service which

Mr. Wadlin has rendered to the people and their own personal service over this severing of a relationship which has grown steadily in satisfaction and in pleasure with the passing years.

In February, 1917, Mr. Wadlin will have completed a service as Librarian of fourteen years. That period of time has seen many changes in the personnel of the Board of Trustees. Of the Trustees who welcomed Mr. Wadlin in February 1903, only one, the President of the present Board, remains. During that period the work of the Library has been largely increased. New branches and reading-rooms have been established, and more and more the Library has taken its place in the thought of the citizens as one of the great educational agencies in the life of Boston. In all this work of extension and of increased usefulness Mr. Wadlin has been the foremost figure. Each fresh demand upon his thought and time has been fully met, and his wisdom and efficiency were never more evident than today, in every department of the Library's work.

He is leaving us now in the ripe maturity of his strength, conscious that the great institution over which he has presided, has noted in him no loss of energy, no waning powers.

And he leaves also with the respect, the affection and the unfeigned regret of every member of the Board of Trustees. We cannot close this record of our appreciation of the public service of the official without adding a word of our affectionate regard for the man.

We recognize that Mr. Wadlin by his professional training and by his former experience is singularly well equipped for the position which he has held, but we are convinced that it is to his personal qualities that his success is even more largely due.

In the good feeling which prevails among these hundreds of Library employees, in their loyalty to the institution, their pride in the service, we see the effects of the character of the man who was their Chief, — the strong sense of equity, the human sympathy, and the cheery good humor which has marked Mr. Wadlin's administration of the Library. He has been to them first of all not an official but a man, and his successful discharge of the varied and delicate responsibilities of his position affords one more proof that the solution of most problems that have to deal with human factors is to be found in terms of personality.

We let him go, at his desire not ours, and we ask him to accept this assurance of our gratitude for the fruitful past, and our good wishes for the future.

ESTIMATES FOR 1917.

As stated last year, the form of estimate schedule for salaries prevents our taking into account lost time. By "lost time" we mean time lost and not paid for by absence of employees from

service on account of illness, by reason of vacations granted with loss of pay, or for other causes; or due to vacancies occurring for longer or shorter periods on account of the death or resignation of employees and pending the appointment of new incumbents. This has heretofore been taken into account in making the estimate for salaries. It is impossible to take it into account in an itemized estimate made in advance for it is impossible to charge this lost time upon the individuals who will lose it.

The Board desires to meet the requirements of the estimate schedule as far as possible, and we have accordingly made our estimates for full time salaries amounting to \$325,269.00, but we have suggested to Your Honor and the Council the propriety of making the appropriation for salaries in the Library Department in a lump sum as heretofore. If this is done our estimate for salaries will be \$312,269.00

THE LIBRARY CORPORATION.

We desire to call attention to the situation of the Library as a corporate body. In 1878 the Legislature passed an act, entitled: "An Act to incorporate the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston." (Acts 1878, Chapter 114.) This act constituted the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston, a corporation for certain specified purposes, one of which was to take and hold real and personal estate to an amount not exceeding one million dollars, which may be given, granted, bequeathed or devised to it, and accepted by it, for the benefit of the Public Library of the City of Boston or any branch library or any purpose connected therewith. Another purpose was to make such rules and regulations relating to said Public Library and its branches, and its officers and servants, and to fix and enforce penalties for the violation of such rules and regulations as they may deem expedient. The Trustees were then given the general care and control of the central Public Library, and of all branches thereof, and of the fixtures connected therewith, and also the control of the expenditure of money appropriated therefore. And, finally, it was provided that the Corporation might appoint a superintendent or librarian, with

such assistants and subordinate officers as they might think necessary or expedient, and might remove the same, and fix their compensation, provided the amount thus paid out should not exceed the sum appropriated by the City Council for that item of expense, and the income of any money which might lawfully be appropriated for that purpose from funds or property held by the Trustees under the provisions of the Act.

The legal effect of the statute was to separate the corporation created by it from the City government, except in the matter of the appointment of the Trustees, who are five in number, each appointed by the Mayor for a term of five years. All property given to the Corporation is controlled absolutely by it and not by the City government. All money appropriated by the City government for Library purposes is to be spent by the Trustees as a Corporation, and not by the City government. All persons employed by the Corporation are to be employed in the discretion of the Trustees, retained in office as long as they think best to keep them in office, and their compensation is to be fixed by the Corporation.

This made the position of Trustees important and honorable, and enabled the Mayor to call to the service of the City, as Trustees, persons of character and standing, competent to manage the affairs of the Corporation. This Corporation was afterwards authorized by the Legislature to construct the Central Library building, at an expense of \$2,762,385, and was charged with the maintenance of that building and of all branch buildings. It was directed by the Legislature to sell the old Library building on Boylston Street for such price as it saw fit, and to turn the proceeds into the Sinking Fund for the retirement of the bonds issued to construct the present building on Copley Square. All this it did, and the Sinking Fund is sufficient to retire all the bonds issued for the construction of the present building. This Corporation has also been entrusted by the City Council with the construction of branch library buildings at the North End, in Charlestown, and in East Boston at an expense of \$251,000, and with the construction of an addition to the Central Library, which is now being built, at an expense of \$300,000.

The Corporation of the Trustees has done all this work, and has managed the Library with good business judgment and with substantial satisfaction to all the people of the City and of the Commonwealth, for the people of the Commonwealth have by an act of the Legislature, the right to use the Central Library and all its contents, which use is very considerable. Substantially one-third of the people using the Library are from outside the city of Boston.

Since the Corporation was formed the number of volumes in the Library has increased from 346,000 to 1,200,000. The number of branches has increased from 6 to 30, and the number of employees from 139 to 571. The expense of operation has increased from \$128,000 to \$422,000, while its trust funds have increased from \$115,000 to \$535,000. These trust funds have been largely given to the Library because of its corporate capacity to hold them free from the interference of anybody.

This scheme of removing the Library from political influence and placing it in the hands of a corporation has produced excellent results. The Trustees have been appointed and continued in office without reference to their politics, and have had the entire control of the building, the Library and library material, the employees and their salaries, and of the money appropriated for improvements and repairs, for thirty-nine years. Last year, however, it was proposed to make a segregated appropriation for the Library in which salaries to be paid to employees should be fixed by the Mayor and Council and the sum to be paid for each other item of expense should be fixed. The Trustees protested against this, as contrary to the terms of their charter, and the result was that the appropriation for salaries was made in a lump sum, except that the amount appropriated for the Sunday and evening force was separate from the amount appropriated for the regular Library staff. But the amount required for other expenses was \$112,405. According to the plain words of the statute the "control" of this money when appropriated was in the hands of the Trustees under the Act of 1878 which enabled them to spend the money judiciously and as the necessities of the Library might require. But this sum was appro-

prated in 39 different items varying in amount from one of \$5.00, a premium on a bond, to \$33,500 for "library." Now to spend this money as appropriated in these 39 different items was impossible. The result was that when the amounts appropriated for postage, for light and power, for insurance, for "communication," for cleaning, for fees, for equipment, supplies, chemicals and disinfectants, materials, etc., fell short, as they all did, there was nothing to be done by the Trustees but to ask for transfers from items in which there was a surplus to those items in which there was a deficit. This required the Trustees to go to the Mayor and ask him to recommend the Council to make these transfers, that is, to take from money which had been appropriated for office equipment, electrical material, transportation, cartage, removal of snow and ice, boiler insurance, etc., and re-appropriate it for the items which were short. This is called making a transfer, but it is in reality a re-appropriation of money which has been appropriated for one purpose, to another purpose for which it has not been appropriated, and requires a recommendation by the Mayor and action by the Council just like an original appropriation. These transfers or re-appropriations amounted to 27 in number. They were not all made at one time, but at three different periods as necessity arose. They varied in amount from \$2.00 to \$1900, and 15 of them were for \$100. or less. That is to say, in all these 27 cases the control by the Trustees of the money which has been appropriated for the Library was taken from them and exercised by the Mayor and Council. This in our judgment is not desirable and is not warranted by the terms of the Act of Incorporation. It takes from the Trustees the control of the money appropriated for the Library, and if continued, will relieve them from the responsibility for the purchase of books and other material and for repairs and improvements necessary to be made upon the Library buildings, and place that responsibility with the Mayor, or with the Mayor and Council.

It is not a segregated *estimate* which violates the Charter, because an estimate may be required in any form and in any detail which the appropriating power thinks best for its purpose.

But a segregated *appropriation* is absolutely contrary to the Charter of the Library.

These considerations as to the charter powers of the Library Corporation are especially important at this time when it is suggested that the employees of the Library staff, 251 in number, besides the Sunday and evening force of about 225, shall be included in the civil service rules of the State. This would in our judgment be a most serious blow to the efficiency of the Library. It would practically remove the appointment of these employees from the control of the Trustees. The power to appoint and to remove its employees which is given to the Corporation of the Library Trustees necessarily comprehends the power to fix the standard of qualification of the person or persons to be appointed. The power to fix the standard is of the essence of the power to appoint. Without it the power of appointment is nothing. The Trustees are to say what qualifications the persons whom they desire to appoint are to have for the duties which the Trustees wish them to perform. Take away the power to provide the standard of qualification and you take away the essential power of appointment. It would be absurd to say that the Trustees may appoint their employees, and remove them, but that they shall only appoint such persons as are found to fill the standard of qualification established by somebody else upon an examination by somebody else, and yet that is precisely what the civil service rules accomplish. It is wholly abroad of the question whether such inclusion of the Library staff in the civil service rules is expedient, as we are clearly of the opinion it is not.

RETIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES.

We desire to repeat the recommendation which we made in our report of 1914 in favor of some provision by the City which will enable employees to be retired when they become incapacitated for service. The Examining Committee as far back as 1910, after discussing in its report the low rate of wages paid in the Library, said: "It is manifestly impossible for persons

receiving such rates of compensation to create and maintain any adequate fund to which resource can be had in the emergencies of life which confront or are likely to confront them." As we said then, we now say we entirely concur in this view, and we wish again to press urgently upon the consideration of the city government and of the people of the city, the importance of making some provision which will enable the Trustees to retire from their service those who have been worn out by years of work in it. Such retirement with suitable provision for their proper support is demanded not only because it is humane but because it is for the best business interests of the city. If the fines which are now imposed and collected by the Library upon overdue books, amounting to about \$5,000. each year, and which are now paid into the City Treasury, could be placed at the disposal of the Trustees for this purpose, it would enable them to create a retirement fund sufficient for the purpose.

This money is really an income which the Library creates by imposing the fines and collecting them in small sums, and there seems to be good reason why it should be placed at the disposal of the Library Corporation for the purpose of retiring its employees in the discretion of the Trustees.

NEW BRANCH BUILDINGS.

There is urgent need for new branch buildings in South Boston and at West Roxbury. The West Roxbury Branch is upstairs in an old wooden building, not well located and entirely inadequate for library purposes. The South Boston Branch now occupies premises, in which it was originally established thirty-four years ago, which are leased. They are up one flight from the street. They are not large enough, and there is neither room for expansion, nor are they adapted for the administration of a proper branch. The children's room is a space railed off in a corner of the general room. It is only necessary to visit the place to see that new quarters should be provided without delay. The work of both these branches is increasing, and the South Boston Branch is one of the largest in the whole system. We earnestly

hope that an appropriation may be made for one or both of these buildings at an early date. We called special attention to the needs of the South Boston and other branches in our report for 1910, which we are happy to say resulted in a new branch at the North End, a new branch at Charlestown, and a new branch at East Boston, much to the satisfaction of the people in those localities.

ANNUAL INVENTORY.

An annual inventory is made, at the end of each year, of the personal property of the Library, except books and other material shown on the catalogue or included in the catalogue shelf list.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

As required by the City Ordinance, we appointed an Examining Committee for this year, and joined the President of the Library Board with it, as Chairman. Those who were appointed and who have served as members of the Committee are as follows:

Miss Eleanor W. Allen.	Miss Grace Nichols.
Mr. William M. Bogart.	Mrs. John F. O'Brien.
Mrs. James A. Dorsey.	Mr. Richard Pope.
Mr. David A. Ellis.	Mr. Richard Ranger.
Mr. Arthur G. Everett.	Rev. Henry Sartorio.
Mr. Augustus A. Fales.	Mr. John A. Scanga.
Mr. George A. Flynn.	Mr. Henry N. Sheldon.
Mr. William Gilchrist.	Mr. Foster Stearns.
Mr. Robert Grant.	Miss Amelia W. Stockwell.
Mrs. James P. Holland.	Mr. Charles S. Sullivan.
Henry Jackson, M.D.	Mr. E. Mark Sullivan.
Mr. Solomon Lewenberg.	Mr. Cranmore N. Wallace.
Mrs. Lawrence J. Logan.	Miss Mary R. Walsh.
Mr. James E. McConnell.	

The selection of an Examining Committee is not an easy task. The Library is so widely extended that a large number of people is required to examine it, with its branches and reading-rooms, and they should, so far as possible, be scattered throughout the

city. The Trustees have been very fortunate in bringing to this service for several years, quite a large number of our most prominent and capable citizens. Their work is necessarily confined to a brief period, but it has been satisfactorily done and the conclusions which they have reached are of great value to the Trustees, the City government and the citizens at large.

To enable this Committee to perform its duties with convenience and efficiency the following sub-committees were appointed:

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE.

This Committee considered the administration of the Library, its working as an entire system, including the Central Library and all branches and reading-room stations, and, in connection with this, its financial management, including the sources from which its revenue is derived, and the manner in which it is expended. Its members were:

MR. WALLACE, *Chairman.*

MR. EVERETT.

MR. POPE.

MR. LEWENBERG.

BOOKS.

This Committee gave attention to all matters connected with the acquisition and use of books and other library material, in the Central Library and branches. Its members were:

MR. SHELDON, *Chairman.*

MRS. LOGAN.

MR. GRANT.

MR. McCONNELL.

FINE ARTS AND MUSIC.

This Committee gave attention to these Departments, including the circulation of pictures from the Central Library and branches. Its members were:

MR. STEARNS, *Chairman.*

MRS. O'BRIEN.

MISS NICHOLS.

PRINTING AND BINDING.

This Committee examined and considered all matters connected with the Departments of Printing and Binding, with special attention to the

expenses of the Departments and the products of each of them. Its members were:

MR. BOGART, *Chairman.*

MR. RANGER.

BRANCHES AND READING-ROOM STATIONS.

It was thought best to divide the branches and reading-room stations into groups in different parts of the City, and appoint a Committee to examine and report with regard to each group. These groups and the several Committees thus appointed were as follows:

SOUTH BOSTON AND SOUTH END BRANCHES, ANDREW SQUARE, CITY POINT AND TYLER STREET READING ROOMS.

DR. JACKSON, *Chairman.*

MRS. HOLLAND.

MRS. LOGAN.

CHARLESTOWN AND EAST BOSTON BRANCHES, ORIENT HEIGHTS READING ROOM.

MRS. FALES, *Chairman.*

MR. C. S. SULLIVAN.

MRS. O'BRIEN.

BRIGHTON, JAMAICA PLAIN, WEST ROXBURY AND HYDE PARK BRANCHES, ROSLINDALE, BOYLSTON STATION, WARREN STREET, ROXBURY CROSSING, PARKER HILL, ALLSTON AND FANEUIL READING ROOMS.

MR. E. MARK SULLIVAN, *Chairman.*

MRS. DORSEY.

MISS ALLEN.

DORCHESTER, ROXBURY, UPHAM'S CORNER AND CODMAN SQUARE BRANCHES, MT. PLEASANT, MT. BOWDOIN, LOWER MILLS, MATTAPAN AND NEPONSET READING ROOMS.

MR. GILCHRIST, *Chairman.*

MRS. HOLLAND.

MISS WALSH.

WEST END AND NORTH END BRANCHES.

REV. H. SARTORIO, *Chairman.*

MRS. O'BRIEN.

MR. SCANGA.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT AND WORK WITH SCHOOLS.

This Committee gave special attention to the work which the Library is doing for children, and also to what it is doing in connection with the schools, with regard not only to the way in which the work is done, but also as to its extension and its limitation. Its members were:

DR. JACKSON, *Chairman.*

MISS STOCKWELL.

MISS WALSH.

MR. ELLIS.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

For the purpose of receiving the reports of the work of the various other sub-committees, and preparing a draft report of the Examining Committee to be considered by it in a meeting of all its members, and for any other general purpose connected with the examinations of the Library system, a sub-committee, called the General Committee was appointed. Its members were:

MR. SHELDON, *Chairman.*

MR. GILCHRIST.

MISS NICHOLS.

MR. FLYNN.

The report of the Committee is appended hereto and included as part of our report.

CONCLUSION.

The Trustees have held regular meetings each week, with the exception of the summer months, the number being thirty-five, and one or more of them have given attention to the Library affairs at the Central building or elsewhere throughout the system, substantially daily throughout the year. Under the able and faithful service of the Librarian and all his assistants the affairs of the Library have moved well. The work has been of great excellence, and we desire to commend the fidelity of the Librarian and of his assistants to the interests of the Library and the City.

In conclusion, permit us to express our appreciation of the appropriations which have been made by the Mayor and Council for the maintenance of the Library and for the construction of the addition to the Central building.

JOSIAH H. BENTON,
WILLIAM F. KENNEY,
SAMUEL CARR,
ALEXANDER MANN,
ARTHUR T. CONNOLLY.

BALANCE SHEET, RECEIPTS AND

DR.

CENTRAL LIBRARY AND BRANCHES:

To expenditures for permanent employees	\$203,630.27
Temporary employees	51,284.57
	<hr/>
James L. Whitney bibliographic account	\$254,914.84
Service other than personal	1,169.00
Postage	\$ 1,385.85
Transportation of persons	204.67
Cartage and freight	8,401.38
Light and power	7,797.06
Rent, taxes, and water	14,079.18
Premium on surety bond	5.00
Communication	947.76
Cleaning	620.73
Removal of ashes	7.50
Removal of snow	451.05
Medical	5.00
Examinations	90.00
Extermination of insects	6.56
Fees	23.10
Boiler inspection	19.00
General plant repairs	6,839.64
	<hr/>
To expenditures for equipment	40,883.48
Motorless vehicles	\$ 26.67
Furniture and fittings	1,944.98
Office	93.59
Library (books and periodicals):	
City appropriation	\$26,904.56
Trust funds income	10,894.21
Carnegie gift, Galatea Collection	120.53
	<hr/>
	37,919.30
Newspapers (from Todd fund income)	1,805.73
Periodicals	6,656.53
Tools and instruments	361.83
Wearing apparel	52.05
General plant repairs	277.20
	<hr/>
To expenditures for supplies	49,137.88
Office	\$ 2,526.85
Ice	246.65
Fuel	14,413.53
Forage and animal	9.00
Medical	15.90
Laundry, cleaning and toilet	671.75
Agricultural	47.25
Chemicals and disinfectants	104.35
General plant	1,555.84
	<hr/>
Carried forward	19,591.12
	<hr/>
	\$365,696.32

EXPENSES, JANUARY 31, 1917.

CR.

BY CITY APPROPRIATION 1916-17:	\$409,080.00
Income from Trust funds	20,842.35
Income from James L. Whitney bibliographic account	700.00
Interest on deposit in London	133.01
	<hr/>
	\$430,755.36

BY BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD, FEBRUARY 1, 1916:

Trust funds income on deposit in London	\$ 2,959.11
City appropriation on deposit in London	3,128.84
Trust funds income, City Treasury	33,174.78
Carnegie gift for Galatea collection	156.98
James L. Whitney bibliographic account	829.61
	<hr/>
	40,249.32

Carried forward

 \$471,004.68

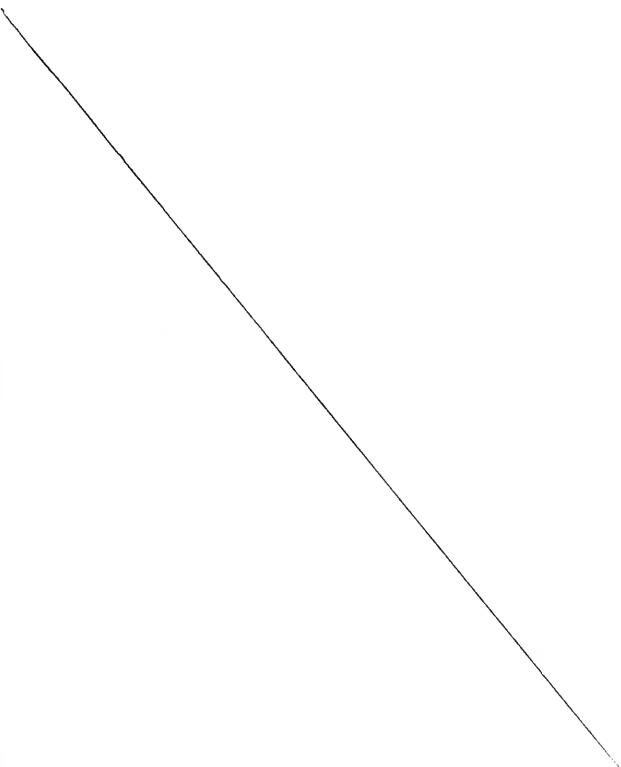
BALANCE SHEET, RECEIPTS AND

DR.

<i>Brought forward</i>		\$365,696.32
To expenditures for materials		
Building	\$ 302.58	
Electrical	844.91	
General plant	1,053.96	
		2,201.45
PRINTING DEPARTMENT:		
To expenditures for salaries	\$7,674.19	
Stock	2,495.22	
Equipment	2,000.00	
Light and power	518.11	
Contract work	433.87	
Rent	500.00	
Freights and cartage	111.50	
Insurance	268.32	
Cleaning	140.05	
Small supplies, ice, and repairs	107.66	
		14,248.92
BINDING DEPARTMENT:		
To expenditures for salaries	\$28,886.43	
Stock	3,606.62	
Light and power	240.73	
Contract work	19.71	
Rent	1,400.00	
Freight and cartage	365.00	
Insurance	268.33	
Cleaning	140.05	
Small supplies, ice, and repairs	199.22	
		35,126.09
To AMOUNT PAID INTO CITY TREASURY:		
From fines	\$7,089.38	
Sales of catalogues, bulletins, and lists	80.00	
Commission on telephone stations	320.03	
Sale of waste paper	323.44	
Sale of paper towels	63.27	
Interest on bank deposits	26.13	
Payments received for lost books	426.27	
Money found	18.07	
		8,346.59
To BALANCE, JANUARY 31, 1917:		
Trust funds income on deposit in London	\$ 1,315.33	
City appropriation on deposit in London	3,049.75	
Trust funds income balance, City Treasury	42,960.97	
Carnegie gift for Galatea collection	36.45	
James L. Whitney bibliographic account	360.61	
		47,723.11
Balance unexpended		6,008.79
		\$479,351.27

EXPENSES, JANUARY 31, 1917.

	CR.
<i>Brought forward</i>	\$471,004.68
By RECEIPTS:	
From fines	\$7,089.38
Sales of catalogues, bulletins, and lists	80.00
Commission on telephone stations	320.03
Sale of waste paper	323.44
Sale of paper towels	63.27
Payments for lost books	426.27
Interest on bank deposits	26.13
Money found	18.07
	<hr/>
	8,346.59



\$479,351.27

REPORT OF THE EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

1916-1917

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON,

Gentlemen:

We beg to transmit to you the report of the Examining Committee appointed by you according to the City Ordinance.

We have been impressed with the magnitude which the Library has reached. Originally a scanty collection of books, to which it afforded but limited means of access to such readers as it attracted, and which within the memory of some of our number was housed in two small rooms on Mason Street, it now contains more than a million volumes of books, besides a large number of pamphlets, manuscripts, atlases, and maps. Its collection of paintings, engravings, pictures and other works of art, and of art material is so great that this department has needed the attention of a special sub-committee on Fine Arts and Music. The mural decorations and paintings alone, including the work just completed by Mr. Sargent, are beyond a valuation in money. The photographs, prints, lantern slides, and the volumes relating to painting, architecture, and decoration, and the principal musical collection, mainly used for study and reference in the library itself, are of very great value, and their use is up to the measure of that value. These collections have their home in the main library building, which, with the addition now under construction, represents an expenditure of more than three millions of dollars, and in some thirty other buildings used wholly or in part for branch libraries and reading-rooms.

It will be seen that this Library in its uses, although of very great importance as a means of education, is something more than merely an educational institution. Its administration wisely

aims not only to attract as many readers as possible to those of its books which are available for general circulation, but also to provide for students and seekers after information easy access to its collections of books of reference and of works upon many special subjects. As was well said by your Chairman a few years ago in speaking of the Library system, "It is of value only as it is worked. The books, manuscripts and other material are useless except when they are being read and examined. * * * The problem of working the Public Library therefore is the problem of bringing its books and other material into the most general and extensive public use within the limit of the amount of money which the taxpayers are willing to pay for that use." This is the real object for which the Library is maintained; this is what its administration desires to accomplish; and in our examination we have attempted to keep in mind that the main question for us to consider and report upon is how far this object has been attained and whether any and what further means, within the limits of possible expenditure, can be adopted for its further and better attainment.

As has been said, we find that the administration has sought diligently to accomplish this purpose. Speaking broadly and generally, we have seen no room for adverse criticism upon the Library itself. Details may be best considered in speaking of reports made by the various sub-committees which have had to do with different departments.

The Committee on Administration and Finance visited all the rooms of the Central Library and many of the branches, and saw much to commend. In two of the branches, however, they found that the janitor service was inferior. We invite attention to this part of their report. They spoke also of the present requirement that the trust funds held for the use of the Library be invested in bonds of the City of Boston, necessarily bearing but a low rate of interest, and recommended that the annual appropriation for the Library should be made in but two amounts, one for salaries and one for all other expenses. We quote also from their report as follows: —

"The most important matter that has engaged our attention

has been the order of the Commission under chapter 333 of the Special Acts of the year 1915 permitting the construction of buildings to the height of 125 feet on land immediately adjacent to the Library Building in Copley Square. We wish to impress upon the Examining Committee most urgently the grave dangers that would result from such construction. We believe that the beautiful architectural features of the building would be greatly impaired, and that danger from fire would be inevitable."

Since the above report was received, the appeal of the Trustees for a revision of this order has resulted in its modification, so that the threatened danger has been averted, and it is no longer to be apprehended that the beauty of this admirable building will be defaced or the safety of its priceless collections put at risk by the allowance of overtopping contruction in its immediate vicinity. We congratulate the city upon this happy escape.

While we do justice to the faithful and intelligent service of the members of the staff of the Library, and remember the fact that their compensation, even as lately increased, is necessarily inadequate, we suggest to the Trustees whether it would not be well to consider filling some of the vacancies that may occur in future by appointment of graduates of some of the library schools now established in this country, such as should pass the searching examinations to which applicants are subjected by the Trustees and should be found to be otherwise qualified. We do not wish to be understood by this suggestion as favoring at all the proposition lately made to bring the whole library staff under the rules of the Civil Service Commission, and require all future appointments to be made under the examinations of that body. We do not touch upon the question whether this lawfully can be done under present legislation in face of the express provisions of the act incorporating the Trustees. (St. 1878, Ch. 114.) That question is not for us to consider. But apart from any question of power we think that it would be very unfortunate if such a course were adopted for this Library. Important as educational qualifications are for the members of its staff, these are not the sole, perhaps not the most important matters to be considered in passing upon the fitness of candidates. The

personal elements, kindness of heart, tact in dealing with young people as well as with children of a larger growth, that administrative capacity which is strong in some and deficient in others, cannot be tested by examinations alone. Taking but one example from the many that might be mentioned, no one could have seen the crowds of people, mainly young children from the schools, pouring into the branch libraries at South Boston, East Boston, Charlestown, and the North and West Ends, and observed the good-humored skill and wisdom with which they were managed, so as to combine their advantage and instruction with interest and entertainment, and not have felt that the discretion of the Trustees in making appointments should not be limited to selection from a small number of candidates determined by the examinations of a foreign body. The members of the staff of this great educational institution are really in the position of teachers, and should be judged and their qualifications determined by substantially the same standards. But we do not need to enlarge upon this point. It has been covered by Mr. Wadlin in the report made by him last month to the Trustees. We beg leave to refer to his well-considered statements, hereto appended, and to adopt them as our own.

The Committee on Books in their report put emphasis on the importance of the Library as a means of education. They give credit for the discrimination exercised in the selection of books and for the methods adopted to afford ready access to them. They recommend the acquisition of Slavic and Yiddish books. They say further:—

“Our social and economic life is constantly undergoing radical changes. Questions of immediate moment and of tremendous importance loom up over the horizon of our individual and collective activity. Such questions demand and deserve serious individual and collective consideration. But the vast majority of the public, by reason of the very nature of such questions, and by reason of the limited means at its disposal, is unable, except through the Public Library, to obtain the information necessary to a proper consideration and study of the questions involved. Today these questions may be Old Age Pensions,

Health Insurance, Accident Compensation, Labor; tomorrow such questions may relate to different problems, other phases of social existence; yet they will be of just the same importance. Changing times and changing conditions require the extension of governmental power and development of governmental regulation and control in many spheres of our public life. The Library must be the resort for information of the citizen in quest of knowledge, whose vote or influence on these matters is to be a determining factor for good or evil. We recommend that a section of Bates Hall be reserved for and devoted to works of contemporaneous interest upon the questions of the day, social and economic subjects and problems. We further recommend that a special attendant be assigned to such portion of the library to guide the reader in his search for material.

"An examination of the books and their arrangement in the reference library of Bates Hall discloses the fact that this collection is not up to the standard set by the Library in other departments. It does not appear to have been wholly revised for years. It should be brought up to date, condensed and reorganized: certain books replaced by later authorities already in the Library, and various gaps filled. An instance lies in the fact that, with the exception of the section devoted to the present European War, the part allotted to history contains but few works of recent date.

"The extent to which the Library catalogues the books by its card-system, the indexing and cross-indexing of authors, titles and subjects, by its very accuracy and completeness presents a problem. With the growth of the Library by each new book, and each new book requiring at times several cards for its proper indexing, expert knowledge must in the near future devise some method of simplification of cataloguing."

The Committee on Fine Arts and Music reports that its members have made numerous visits to the Department of Fine Arts and the Allen A. Brown Music Library, and were favorably impressed with the quality and quantity of the material there offered. They note with satisfaction the appointment of an assistant specially qualified to handle the literature of the tech-

nical arts. They regret that the beauty of the room containing the Brown Music Library is being obscured by its crowded condition, that increases as new cases are added. They say: "It seems to the committee that if the suggestion of last year cannot be met and the regular library collection of music brought to a point where it is accessible from the Brown room, then the other alternative must be considered, viz., moving the Brown Collection. If this were placed in the present Exhibition room, it would adjoin the alcoves where the circulating collection of music is shelved, and thus all the music would be within control of the assistant in charge, while with the present Brown room cleared of its cases and used for exhibition purposes, its architectural features would be revealed."

The Committee on Printing and Binding finds these departments of the Library, though sometimes overtaxed, to be well handled and progressing in efficiency. They make a few suggestions, which we doubt not will be considered by the Trustees.

The members of the Committee on Children's Department and Work with Schools were "much impressed by the character of the work done in the Central Library" as well as in the branches and by "the devotion and intelligent interest on the part of the workers. This is shown," they say, "in the evident coöperation with the teachers of the schools in their districts, their knowledge of the work being done by the children, their wise and friendly relations with the children, and the giving of their time to make collections of pictures for the children, which are of great value to children and teachers." They recommend that the "story hour" established in the Central Library and in the larger branches be extended to all the branches; that a larger number of pictures be furnished for the smaller children; and that the Library should supply for the branches "librarians specially trained in the study of literature for children, and in the proper methods to train children not only to choose good books, but how to find subjects in which they are interested." — We congratulate our fellow-citizens upon the good work which is done by this important department of the Library.

As in former years the thirty branches and reading-rooms were divided into five groups, each of which was assigned to a different committee for examination and report. Their reports taken together show that careful examinations have disclosed much to commend and but little occasion for criticism. Not infrequently it was found that increased attendance called for additional room and a larger supply of books, especially of recent publications. Emphasis sometimes is put upon the latter need. It was recommended that general catalogues of Italian books belonging to the Library should be made for the North End Branch and of Yiddish books for the West End Branch to meet special needs existing in those parts of the city. In a few of the branches and reading-rooms, the ventilation was found to be insufficient, and in some cases complaints were made of the arrangements of the rooms. For the particulars we beg leave to refer to the detailed reports of the different sub-committees.

The recommendations and suggestions which have been made would doubtless, if they were all carried into effect, involve a considerable increase in the annual expenditure of the Library. We are aware of the fact that only a strictly limited amount of money is available. It is to be regretted that the necessary expense of administration already is so large that only a comparatively small sum can be used for the purchase of books. But we are forced to recognize the fact that the Library has been and is managed with a wisely rigid economy; that the salaries paid to the skilled members of its staff are not commensurate with their deserts; and that all proposed disbursements are scrutinized with the greatest care to avoid the incurring of any expense which is not actually necessary. We can only hope that, from public or private beneficence, a greater amount of money can be made available for the purposes of the Library.

We cannot refrain from expressing our regret that the present librarian, Dr. Wadlin, is about to retire from his office. Our examinations have shown us that it would be hard to estimate properly the benefit which has come from his intelligent devotion during the last fourteen years. We trust that the high standard which he has set may be maintained by his successors.

In conclusion, it gives us real pleasure to say that the city well may take pride in its Library. It has become a means of service to the citizens, as a source of instruction, of entertainment, and of culture in the highest sense of that word.

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON PROPOSAL TO PLACE PUBLIC LIBRARIES UNDER CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONS' RULES.

(Presented to the Trustees, December 15, 1916.)

I am directed to report upon the proposed inclusion of public library employees under the rules of the Civil Service Commission of the Commonwealth, and so report as follows:

The proposal I understand to be general in character, affecting the public libraries of all the cities in Massachusetts. Heretofore public libraries have been exempt from the operation of the rules in question, exactly as the teachers in the public schools are exempted. But while the proposal is of general application the Boston Public Library is the principal library to be affected by it. It is not only the largest and mostly highly organized library in the State, but it deals intimately with a large and complex constituency, embracing persons of various nationalities and of various stages of literary culture, and includes systematic work with young persons, in co-operation with the schools. It also has by far the largest number of employees; — and it already has in satisfactory operation a system of service examinations, and of progressive staff promotions based on continuous efficient service.

The proposal therefore is to us one of much moment. It affects us more seriously than it affects any other library, since the change would substitute for a well-established system of our own, that has been in existence since 1895, and that has satisfactorily borne the test of experience in operation, without, so far as I am aware, encountering serious criticism, other methods, which, however theoretically perfect, are untried in our field of operation, and which, however satisfactory, can hardly promise improvement over the present system.

The abstract question of including library administration under civil service rules, administered by a Board apart from the library management, has been frequently discussed and much information has been collected upon its merits.

At the Annual Conference of the American Library Association, held at Washington in 1914, Mr. Jennings of the Public Library in Seattle, presented the results of a canvas of 53 different libraries, including all the large institutions in the country. All of the notably efficient libraries in the United States were among them. Only nine of the 53 were under civil service rules, and eight of the nine reported unsatisfactory results. Mr. Jennings personally visited the ninth (which in its report had been rather non-committal) and he says that he was informed that "the contrast between the old system when they were not under civil service, and the new system under civil service, was very marked; that the old system was much the better. So that of the nine libraries that had civil service none were satisfied with the results." Mr. Jennings further explains: "Of those 53 libraries, 28 were in towns having civil service commissions, but 19 of the 28 had specifically exempted the public library from the operation of the civil service law. These exemption were, in general, based upon the ground that the requirements for library work included the question of personality, and other questions of gumption and tact and industry — qualifications that could not be tested by civil service examination — and that libraries were educational institutions, like the schools, and should be exempted in the same manner and for the same reasons that the schools are exempt."

This position is, unquestionably, that held by the majority of those having to do with library management. The Library of Congress, to take a notable illustration, is, and always has been exempt from the operation of the national civil service, and after vigorous debate in Congress, following elaborate inquiry into the operation of the library, just before its removal to the present building, the exemption was continued, and appointments were placed in the control of the librarian, without restriction.

The exemption is not an indictment of civil service methods, or of the application of civil service principles to routine depart-

mental appointments. It rests, as will be obvious, upon the peculiar character of library service.

The requirements for efficient library service, so far as they can be met by examinations, are quite different from and far more complex than those for ordinary clerical service, since much of the work is educational in its nature rather than merely routine, and the incumbents must be qualified to deal with various subjects, and fill, as the needs of the efficient operation of the library may demand, various positions, other than the particular place to which they may be nominally assigned. Thus frequently they are called upon to deal with reference work, directing inquirers to the sources of knowledge to be gained from books, to aid and advise young persons in the choice of reading, to help foreign born citizens who are trying to become Americanized through the opportunities which the library offers, to help the artisan who is trying to increase his efficiency through the use of books, and to do numerous other things besides performing some one specific duty to which they have been appointed in connection with the operation of the library.

Certain qualifications of the efficient library employee can be tested by examinations. The more important qualifications, however, depend upon personality, special training in library work, and adaptability only to be discovered after experience, for which the usual probationary period of six months is too short. I am aware that under the operation of the civil service rules, in testing applicants for certain positions, the element of personality is not ignored, and is even given preponderating effect in the percentage marking of candidates. Such attempts to measure personality however must rest largely on statements made by or in behalf of the candidate, these being weighed in the judgment of the examiner, usually without direct examination of the candidate, and given a mathematical equivalent on a percentage scale. The choice of the appointing officer, being confined in the first place to those who happen to take the examination, is then further limited to those who come out at the top on such a rating. These are limitations of choice that ought not to be applied in educational service like ours. No one would adopt

such a plan of selection except to avoid evils in appointment that could not otherwise be eliminated.

It is, of course, conceivable that a commission which has no responsibility for the actual operation of a large library like ours, might, with the aid of expert assistance, frame examinations that would test the elementary fitness of applicants. Waiving all question of whether such a commission could more efficiently make these tests than those actually in contact with the work of the library and responsible for its management, it seems to me certain that with our experience here, covering 21 years since our method of appointment was established, our service could not be improved, to say the least, by a change which would take from us all power of using that experience, would abolish the existing graded system under which our present appointees have been given assurance of advancement, and which would confine our range of selection to those who happen to secure high marks under a scheme of examinations adapted to the ordinary requirements of the civil service.

The Boston Public Library, as is well-known, is one of the most important libraries in the country in its equipment, its cataloguing, and in its service, generally. It consists not only of the central library but includes 30 branches in different parts of the city, and it is in a very real sense, the intellectual centre of the city. It is controlled by a Board of Trustees, removed from politics by a limitation upon their appointment requiring the Civil Service Commission to certify, after careful inquiry, that the appointees are qualified by education, training or experience, for their office. They are, by a special act of the Legislature, passed after careful consideration and with full knowledge based upon experience, a corporate body, and in that respect the library is unlike the ordinary city departments. By this act of incorporation the Trustees are given certain broad powers under which they may appoint "a superintendent or librarian with such assistants and subordinate officers as they may think necessary or expedient, and may remove the same, and fix their compensation," a function which they have for 38 years exercised with discretion, without interference, and, so far as I am aware,

without material criticism as to its results, in respect to the general efficiency of the service. Under the scheme established by the Trustees in 1895 the service consists of three grades. The upper grade (numbering approximately 100 persons, men and women), comprises the organizing and directing element of the library, and includes specialists in various departments of library science, now a distinct profession. The lower grade (numbering approximately 100), includes a large number of young persons of both sexes who may be classed as apprentices, and who for the most part come directly from the public schools at a comparatively small entering wage, advanced to a maximum by periodic increases, as they gain experience. Between these two grades there is a medium grade (including about 50, chiefly women) in which, upon a basis of elementary education, efficiency is acquired by experience in library methods. Examinations for each of these grades must not only be special, but must have in view the requirements of the service as a whole, upon the theory that those who enter the lower may proceed as opportunity opens, to the higher, taking, in each case of promotion, an additional examination for the special requirements of the grade to which promotion is open.

It is hardly to be supposed that the considerable number of minor places (approximately 100) ranging from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per week, or those rendering partial service in the same grade, approximately 150 persons (as in our evening and so-called extra service, paid by the hour), could be restricted to or satisfactorily filled under the routine of the ordinary civil service. The employment of many of the incumbents of these places is necessarily more or less temporary. But many of them, so far as relates to the regular week-day service, are in training for higher positions. They are, in fact, apprentices, and all this elementary library work, is, in a sense, a preparatory school from which those having the highest qualifications will by the operation of the progressive feature of the existing service schedule be promoted as opportunity occurs, while others having reached the limit of efficiency in library work will pass out to other occupations for which they are better fitted.

At the other extremity of the service, although, whenever possible, places are filled by promotion from below, it occasionally becomes necessary to secure an expert, for example, a trained cataloguer or reference librarian, and the number of available candidates in the country for such places is always limited. They can only be obtained by freedom of choice; in other words, by going after the man or woman who may have made a record in some other library, just as principals of schools or efficient teachers are sought for. They cannot be found on civil service lists, nor would such persons ordinarily submit to a civil service examination. In fact, the work of public libraries is, as I have said, subject to much the same considerations as the work of the public schools. It is educational, complex, and of such nature that personality as well as wide and varied knowledge and special training is necessary. The qualifications required in all the various departments are best tested by those who have intimate knowledge of the requirements, and who are directly responsible to the public for the results.

There are two other directions in which the application of the State civil service rules would operate disadvantageously to our service, and which may be specifically mentioned. One relates to appointments, the other to termination of service.

1. Appointments ought not to be restricted to residents of the city where the library is located. The responsible head of the library administration ought to have the widest liberty of choice. Obviously, as has been pointed out by others in the discussion of this question, a geographical limitation is frequently merely a refinement of the spoils system. In it the citizens say "we pay the salaries; we ought to get the appointments." What the library needs, and this is only a condensed statement of what the public service through the library needs, is the best, wherever obtainable. This, of course, does not preclude the exercise of preference to residents of the city, other things being equal, or the enforcement of residence within the city after appointment, if thought desirable. The difficulty with the civil service rules, unless modified, is that liberty of choice in original appointment, is restricted.

2. There ought to be no limitation upon the freedom to terminate the employment of a member of the staff who is found, for any reason to be a misfit in a place; not one who is merely inefficient, in the ordinary use of that word, but one who cannot satisfactorily render the complex service the library requires or serve the public efficiently in the varied personal relations which library work entails. There should be no question, as sometimes under civil service practice, of elaborate method in dealing with such dismissal, such for example, as the provision for hearing, representation by counsel, etc. Such methods are as much out of place in library work as they would be in other educational work which is largely dependent on the personal element, for example, in the schools. To apply the principle of trial and appeal, to a large number of minor employees working under the conditions of our service, upon a progressive grade system, one element of which is satisfactory service, through several years, not merely for a six months probationary period, would introduce obvious difficulties of administration. The inevitable tendency would be to lower the quality of the service, and to tolerate inefficiency through the disinclination to enter upon this path towards removal. Under a hearing, if a right of appeal from the Trustees' decision is to be allowed, to quote Mr. Jennings, "the librarian would appear, and perhaps the trustees, and state their case. The assistant would come and state her ideas, and each side would have the privilege of bringing witnesses and giving evidence." "I think," says Mr. Jennings, "that is a situation that is intolerable. No self-respecting man wants to appear at a civil service trial against a young lady who may have been on his staff and whom he considered inefficient, and whom he has removed."

I have endeavored to show that employment in libraries has now become an expert and highly specialized kind of service. While some of its operations require routine it is not confined to routine like ordinary clerical work. This is not to say that every employee is, or is required to be, an expert, but the service is so organized that even those in minor places have in view promotion to positions that require expertness.

If presented as an alternative from a method of appointment dictated by political influence, the civil service plan, operated by a board unfamiliar with and apart from library practice, might be accepted. In our system, the librarian, under the Trustees, and acting as their executive officer, is held, as he should be, to strict accountability for the operation of the service. It ought to be clear that it cannot be an improvement to limit this accountability by diminishing responsibility for the selection of his staff through the effect of such limitations upon the power of selection and removal as have been cited. And in any large metropolitan library system the librarian thus becomes the confidential executive of the administrative authorities, and should have the qualities that command confidence. The librarian (and to a lesser extent his heads of departments), must formulate policies, and should possess power of initiative, and a high degree of executive ability, besides technical and literary qualifications. The choice of such officers should be made with the same freedom that is exercised in the selection of a president of a college, a superintendent of schools, or the head of a business corporation. And the subordinate members of the staff should be selected with the same care and upon substantially the same principles as those which govern the selection of teachers in the schools. Whatever else it may be, the public library is today a coördinate branch of the educational system of the city, working in a different field, ministering to a wider and more complex constituency, but nevertheless towards an end which is, in the highest sense, educational, and which is sharply discriminated from merely clerical or routine departmental methods. In its service, although literary qualifications, such as may be tested by examination find place, and are of course essential, nevertheless, personal qualities which no examination can disclose, are dominant.

To summarize:

The proposition to place the public library under the State civil service rules is inadvisable for reasons which are:

First, general, growing out of the special character of library work, which is educational, rather than of ordinary departmental routine; and, secondly, those which have particular application

to our library. To us the proposal involves the destruction of a carefully built-up service system, under which many employees are working towards graded promotions. This system was devised and is operated under the administration of a Board, which, for well-considered reasons, was, by special legislation, given freedom of choice and control of its appointees. This control has been faithfully exercised for many years in the public interest, without any injurious effect of partisan or other invidious discrimination, and free from material criticism.

In the absence of specific reasons for the proposed change, I can make no more specific reply than is contained in this report. It would seem that without public demand for the change, or of criticism of the present system, or of important considerations affecting the public welfare which would make such a change desirable, or indeed of any public discussion whatever regarding it, those who advocate the change should present cogent reasons for it, with opportunity for more definite reply, if required, before action is taken which would be revolutionary in its effect upon our present methods. If under the present exemption of libraries from the civil service rules, abuses in appointment, of which we have no knowledge, have occurred in any library in the State, these should not justify the overturn of a system that, on the whole, has proved generally satisfactory, especially as affecting a library like ours wherein the service requirements are in many respects unlike those of smaller libraries. No system can be regarded as perfect, but every system should be judged by its general results, and not by incidental exceptions.

HORACE G. WADLIN,
Librarian.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

To the Board of Trustees:

I respectfully submit my report for the year ending January 31, 1917.

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Fortunately only minor repairs of the ordinary routine character, necessary to keep the plant in normal operative condition, have been required at the Central Library.

The boilers have been in regular service throughout the year, and have been regularly inspected by the Hartford Steam Boiler and Inspection Company, without disclosing serious defects. They are approaching their limit of effective operation however, and upon the completion of the addition to the Central building, now under construction upon Blagden Street, will be superseded by the new boilers provided for in that addition. In general, it may be said that the electrical equipment, elevators, and the entire steam plant, are in good condition and rendering the service at present required.

Considerable repair work has been performed upon the roof and gutters of the Central building, and special repairs completed around and upon the skylights over the Sargent Hall so-called, preliminary to the installation of the important mural decorations placed beneath them.

The most important repairs and improvements at the branches include the following: Brighton, interior and exterior of the building repainted, roof repaired and electric lights installed; Charlestown, interior and exterior iron work repainted, and minor roof repairs; Dorchester, interior repainted; Roxbury, painting and repairs (by the landlord); Dorchester Lower Mills, interior repainted; Allston, walls painted (by the landlord).

At the West End Branch an upper room in the Tower has been completely renovated, to receive the books formerly in the

West Parish library, given to the Branch when the old church was bought by the City, and to receive a table, formerly belonging to Reverend Cyrus Bartol, a pastor of that church, given to the library by Miss Elizabeth Bartol, who also gave the sum of \$200 to refit the room.

THE USE OF BOOKS

The total number of volumes lent during the year for use outside the library buildings, this being the recorded "home use" circulation, was 2,050,238 as against 2,135,100 for the preceding year. The decline is not very important, and is due almost entirely to two causes, first, the delay in opening the schools in the fall of the year, on account of the prevalence of infantile paralysis, and secondly, the fact that full industrial employment during the year has restricted the reading of books at home. Undoubtedly, under different, and normal, conditions, the circulation will show a considerable increase.

The details of the recorded circulation are shown in the usual comparative tables which follow, prepared as in previous years from the report of Mr. Frank C. Blaisdell, Chief of the Issue Department, so far as they relate to the Central Library, and, so far as they relate to the branch libraries, drawn from the monthly reports of the custodians of branches:

CIRCULATION FROM CENTRAL BY MONTHS.

	HOME USE DIRECT.	HOME USE THROUGH BRANCH DEPT.	SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS THROUGH BRANCH DEPT.	TOTALS.
February, 1916 . . .	29,825	8,630	9,803	48,258
March, " . .	29,033	9,041	10,395	48,469
April, " . .	28,973	8,556	9,537	47,066
May, " . .	23,013	5,905	9,542	38,460
June, " . .	20,256	5,625	9,918	35,799
July, " . .	15,292	3,650	2,126	21,068
August, " . .	16,594	3,262	2,069	21,925
September, " . .	16,339	3,287	1,830	21,456
October, " . .	20,388	3,804	4,209	28,401
November, " . .	24,516	6,552	6,679	37,747
December, " . .	25,026	8,077	12,125	45,228
January, 1917 . . .	24,238	6,954	6,777	37,969
Totals	273,493	73,343	85,010	431,846

	HOME USE.	SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS.	TOTAL.		HOME USE.	SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS.	TOTAL.
CENTRAL LIBRARY:	273,493			<i>Brought forward</i>	945,416	128,200	1,073,616
<i>a. Direct</i>							
<i>b. Through Branches and Reading-Room Sta- tions</i>	73,343						
<i>c. Schools and Institutions through Branch Dept.</i>	.....	85,010	431,846				
				READING-ROOM STATIONS:			
				A.	Lower Mills	17,576	.....
				B.	Roslindale	50,101	1,120
				D.	Mattapan	13,620	.....
				E.	Neponset	18,641	.....
				F.	Mt. Bowdoin	47,728	.....
				G.	Allston	38,534	.....
				N.	Mt. Pleasant	41,432	.....
				P.	Tyler Street	22,657	326
				R.	Warren Street	66,890	.....
				S.	Roxbury Crossing	30,647	.....
				T.	Boylston Station	31,140	.....
				Y.	Andrew Square	26,640	.....
				Z.	Orient Heights	13,753	.....
				23.	City Point	56,612	.....
				24.	Parker Hill	45,219	.....
				25.	Faneuil	22,109	.....
					Total	1,488,746	129,646
							1,618,392
<i>Carried forward</i>	945,416	128,200	1,073,616				

The figures are condensed into the following:

Books lent for Home Use, including Circulation through Schools and Institutions.

From Central Library (including Central Library books issued through the branches and reading-room stations)	431,846
From branches and reading-room stations (other than books received from Central)	1,618,392
Total number of volumes lent for home use and through schools and institutions	2,050,238

COMPARATIVE.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Central Library circulation (excluding schools and institutions):		
Direct home use	299,974	273,493
Through branches and reading-room stations for home use	79,068	73,343
	379,042	346,836
Branch Department circulation (excluding schools and institutions):		
Direct home use		
From branch collections	975,151	945,416
From reading-room stations	555,929	543,330
	1,531,086	1,488,746
Schools and institutions circulation (including books from Central through the Branch system)	224,972	214,656
	2,135,100	2,050,238

The unrecorded circulation of books, that is to say, the large and constant use of books in all the reading-rooms in the Central building, and in the branches, no doubt considerably exceeds the recorded home use circulation.

During the year 72,343 books have been sent out by our wagon delivery system, in response to requests made at branches; this may be compared with 79,260, the figure for the preceding year, the decline being due to the abnormal conditions previously referred to. The number of volumes sent from the so-called deposit collection at the Central Library for use by study clubs or at institutions of various kinds, was 41,154, as compared with 41,073 in 1915.

Under the Inter-library loan system, a reciprocal arrangement under which we occasionally lend for temporary use books to other public libraries, borrowing, under similar circumstances,

books to be used here, there have appeared the following transactions during two successive years:

	1915-16.	1916-17.
Lent from this library to other libraries in Massachusetts	1,109	1,094
Lent to libraries outside Massachusetts	280	305
Totals	1,389	1,399

It should perhaps be explained that books lent under the inter-library plan, are those temporarily required (or in special exigency) by some patron of the borrowing library for the purpose of serious research, such books not being otherwise easily procurable by the borrowing library by purchase.

As in previous years a table is presented showing the classified "home use" circulation of the principal branches (that is, not including the minor branches usually termed reading-room stations) for two successive years:

	1915-16. PERCENTAGES.	1916-17. PERCENTAGES.
Fiction for adults	33.0	31.3
Fiction for juvenile readers	38.0	39.6
Non-fiction for adults	14.0	13.4
Non-fiction for juvenile readers	15.0	15.7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100.0	100.0

At the Central Library the classified "home use" circulation shows the following percentages:

	1915-16. PERCENTAGES.	1916-17. PERCENTAGES.
Fiction	45.3	45.5
Non-fiction	54.7	54.5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100.0	100.0

To prevent misconception I point out that fiction for adults in our circulation always includes a considerable proportion of so-called "classic" or standard fiction, such as the works of Scott, Dickens and Thackeray, and of writers of established standing whose books are in constant demand. Juvenile fiction includes the standard fairy tales and imaginative works intended for children.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

During the past year 43,574 volumes have been acquired (by purchase, gift or otherwise), besides 913 acquired for the Fel-

lowes Athenaeum (deposited at the Roxbury Branch). The statistical details appear in the following tables, in comparison with the year immediately preceding:

	<i>Books acquired by purchase.</i>	
	1915-16.	1916-17.
For the Central Library:		
From City appropriation . . .	11,255	11,993
From Trust Funds income . . .	2,383	3,149
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13,638	15,142
For branches and reading-room stations:		
From City appropriation . . .	17,417	14,433
From Trust Funds income . . .	866	779
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	18,283	15,212
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	31,921	30,354
By Fellowes Athenaeum (for the Roxbury Branch) . . .	917	868
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals . . .	32,838	31,222

Of the books acquired by Fellowes Athenaeum during the past year, 868 were purchased, 25 were gifts, and the remaining 20 volumes were of periodicals bound.

The following statement combines all the accessions so as to show whether the books were purchased or otherwise obtained:

	CENTRAL	BRANCHES	TOTAL
	VOLUMES.	VOLUMES.	VOLUMES.
Accessions by purchase (including 868 volumes by Fellowes Athenaeum for Roxbury Branch) . . .	15,142	16,080	31,222
Accessions by gift (including 25 volumes by Fellowes Athenaeum, for Roxbury Branch) . . .	9,274	532	9,806
Accessions by Statistical Department (gift) . . .	327	...	327
Accessions by exchange	260	2	262
Accessions of periodicals (bound)	2,435	316	2,751
Accessions of newspapers (bound)	119	...	119
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27,557	16,930	44,487

PURCHASES OF FICTION.

During the year 634 volumes of newly-published fiction have been carefully considered, and 147 different titles accepted for purchase. These include not merely fiction for adult readers but imaginative literature for the young. In all, 2,984 copies were bought, costing \$3,144.77; and to replace fiction worn out in circulation 12,739 volumes were bought, costing \$12,000;

bringing the entire expenditure for fiction, new and old, to \$15,144.77, about 41 per cent of the expenditure for books of all kinds.

NOTEWORTHY ACCESSIONS.

The following details, as to important accessions, are brought together, by Miss Theodosia E. Macurdy, Chief of the Ordering Department.

PURCHASES.

No very large collection of books on special subjects has been bought although books relating to Shakespeare, Lincoln, pageantry, United States western and southern history, the Civil War, genealogy, and publications of the British Museum, notably the Catalogues of coins, Assyrian sculptures, Armenian manuscripts and Bengali books, have amounted to considerable in the aggregate. A collection of about a hundred volumes by modern writers of South America has been acquired, including works of Alvarez, Cortés, Darío, Estrada y Zenea, García, Molena and Santa Chocano.

Since the sources of foreign book supply on which the Library depends for current continental literature have been largely cut off, attention has been turned to the older books listed in auction and dealers' catalogues in this country and in England. The following list comprises perhaps the most important of these obtained. With few exceptions they have been paid for with the income of a Trust Fund restricted by condition of gift to the purchase of books which were published prior to 1850.

Angelus Carletus, of Clavasio. *Summa angelica.* Venetijs. 1487.

Anghiera, Pietro Martire d'. *De nouo orbe, or the historie of the West Indies, contayning the acts and aduentures of the Spanyardes.* London. 1612.

Atkyns, Richard. *The origin and growth of printing.* London. 1664.

Bonatti, Guido. *Guido Bonatus de Forlivio. Decem continens tractatus astronomie . . .* Venetijs. 1506.

Euclides. *Elementa geometriae.* Venetijs. 1482. ("Editio princeps of Euclid, and said to be the earliest book in which woodcut designs were printed.")

Florio, John. *Qveen Anne's New world of words . . .* London. 1611.

Florio, John. *Vocabolario italiano & inglese, a dictionary Italian & English . . .* Formerly compiled by John Florio. London. 1659.

Galileo. *Dialogo di Galileo Galilei Linceo, matematico sopraordinario dello stvdo di Pisa.* Fiorenza. 1632.

Heywood, Thomas. *The hierarchie of the blessed angells.* London. 1635. Folio.

Josephus, Flavius. *De bello judaico libri VII, et Antiquitates judaicae, libri XX.* Ruffino interprete. Venetiis. 1487. Black letter.

Livius Patavinus. *Historiarum decades.* Venetiis. 1498.

Mena, Iuan de. *Las trezientas d'el famosissimo poeta Ivan de Mena.* Anvers. 1552.

Orosius, Paulus. *Adversus paganos ad Avrelivm Avgvstinvm.* Venetiis. 1483.

Pelling, Edward. *A practical discourse concerning holiness.* London. Rogers. 1695.

This is one of the volumes comprised in a small collection of books given by King William III. of England to the library of King's Chapel in Boston in 1698; and has stamped on covers, in gilt, — *Sub. auspiciis Wilhelmi III. de bibliotheca de Boston.*

Strabo. *Geographiae libri XVI.* Treviso. 1480.

Whittington, Robert. *Roberti Whittintoni lichfeldiensis Editio. Secunda pars grammatices.* London. Wynkyn de Worde. 1513. (Caxton type.)

To the Department of Fine Arts the most important books added are as follows:

Binyon, Robert Laurence. *The art of Botticelli: an essay in pictorial criticism.* London. 1913.

Boccaccio, Giovanni. *Lo Zibaldone Boccaccesco Mediceo Lavrenziano. Plut. XXIX-8.* Riprodotto in facsimile a cvra della r-biblioteca Medicea Lavrenziana. Firenze. 1915. (64 facsimiles of manuscripts.)

Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. *Rajput painting.* 2 v. London. 1916. Illus. Plates.

Geffroy, Gustave. *L'oeuvre de E. Carrière.* 132 reproductions. Paris. 1902.

Graves, Algernon. *A century of loan exhibitions, 1813-1912.* 5 v. London. Graves. 1913-1915.

Herringham, Christiana Jane, Lady, and others. *Ajanta frescoes; being reproductions in colour and monochrome of frescoes in some of the caves at Ajanta.* London. 1915.

Hucher, Eugène Frédéric Ferdinand. *Calques des vitraux peints de la cathédrale du Mans.* Avec 100 pl. en couleurs. Paris. 1864.

Jackson, Sir Thomas Graham. *Gothic architecture in France, England, and Italy.* 2 v. 191 plates. Cambridge. 1915.

Martin, F. R. *The miniature painting and painters of Persia, India and Turkey from the 8th to the 18th century.* 2 v. London. 1912.

Mauclair, Camille. *Les miniatures du XVIIIe siècle.* (Portraits de femmes.) Paris. 1912.

Moreau, Gustave. *L'oeuvre de Gustave Moreau*. Publiée sous le haut patronage du Musée National Gustave Moreau. 60 reproductions en héliogravure. Paris. 1916.

Osmaston, F. P. B. *The art and genius of Tintoret*. 2 v. London. 1915. Plates.

Palladio, Andrea. *The architecture of A. Palladio*; in four books. Revis'd, design'd and publish'd by Giacomo Leoni. London. 1715.

Pinza, Giovanni. *Materiali per la etnologia antica toscano-laziale*. Tomo 1. Milano. 1915. (Collezioni archeologiche, artistiche e numismatiche dei palazzi apostolici. Volume 7.)

Poggi, Giovanni, editor. *Arte medioevale negli Abruzzi*. Milano. 1914.

Zeiller, Jacques. *Spalato. Le palais de Dioclétien*. Paris. 1912. Illus. Plates, some colored.

Other accessions of individual importance:

Broadside. *Epitaph on the United States of America*. Here lie the mutilated and disjointed remains of the noblest form of government ever contrived by the wisdom of man. *The United States of America*. Three columns of closely printed type, surrounded with heavy black border. Charleston, S. C. 1860.

Burnham, Daniel Hudson, and Edward H. Bennett. *Plan of Chicago* prepared under the direction of the Commercial Club, 1906, 1907, and 1908. Chicago. 1909. Illus. Plans.

Company of Stationers, London. *A transcript of the registers of the Worshipful Company of Stationers from 1640-1708 A.D.* 3 v. London. 1913-14.

Conductor generalis: or, the office, duty and authority of justices of the peace, high-sheriffs, The second edition. Philadelphia. B. Franklin, and D. Hall. 1749.

Confederate States of America. President. *An address to the people of the free states, by the President of the Southern Confederacy*. Richmond, January 5, 1863. Signed Jefferson Davis. Broadside. Richmond Enquirer Print.

Fox, George. *An answer to several new laws and orders made by the rulers of Boston in New-England the tenth day of the eighth moneth, 1677*. By G. F. 1678.

Fryer, Alfred, and Arthur Bennett. *The Potamogetons (pond weeds) of the British Isles*. London. 1915. Illus.

Haywood, John. *The Christian advocate*. By a Tennesseean. Nashville. Bradford. 1819.

Madden, Richard Robert. *The United Irishmen, their lives and times*. 12 v. Newly edited. N. Y. 1916.

Maleissye, Conrad de. *Les lettres de Jehanne d'Arc et la prétendue abjuration de Saint-Ouen*. Paris. 1911. Large paper edition.

Martyn, Benjamin. An impartial inquiry into the state and utility of Georgia. London. 1741.

Mather, Increase. A sermon occasioned by the execution of a man found guilty of murder: preached Boston in New-England, March 11th, 1686. Boston. 1691.

Proby, Sir William, editor. The pageants of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. Reproduced in facsimile from the Cottonian MS. Julius E. IV, in the British Museum. Oxford. Privately printed for presentation to the members of the Roxburghe Club. 1908. 55 plates.

Shortt, A., and others, editors. Canada and its provinces. Edinburgh edition. 22 v. and index. Toronto. 1914.

Stokes, Isaac Newton Phelps. The iconography of Manhattan Island 1498-1909. 2 vols. New York. 1915.

Town and country almanack, for the year of Our Lord, 1786. By Abraham Weatherwise. Boston.

Music.

There has also been bought a collection of music scores and books from the library of the late Professor Couture of Montreal including the works of Bizet, Brahms, C. Franck, Massenet, Saint-Saëns, Tschaikowsky, etc. These were added to the Brown Collection. Also, (1) A hymn of peace, by (Abraham Wood), 8 leaves of engraved music printed on one side of the leaf. The words and music celebrating the triumph of the American arms in the Revolution. Worcester. 1784: (2) Amaryllis. . . . Songs as are most esteemed. Adapted for the voice, violin, hauboy, etc. London, circa 1740, with 160 pages of music: (3) The chorister's companion. New Haven. 1788.

GIFTS.

The gifts from 4252 givers, comprise 13,865 volumes, 14,536 serials, 673 photographs, and 77 newspaper subscriptions.

The more important gifts are noted as follows:

Balch, Miss Emily G., Wellesley. Forty-six books and pamphlets, mainly political economy relating to the Balkans. (In German.)

Baxter, James Phinney, Portland. The greatest of literary problems. By J. P. Baxter.

Biddle, Richard, Philadelphia. A memoir of Sebastian Cabot, with a review of the history of maritime discovery. By Richard Biddle. 1831. Reprinted by his son, Richard Biddle, 1915.

Bixby, William K., Saint Louis. (1) Some Edgar Allan Poe letters. (2) Thomas Jefferson correspondence. Printed from the originals in the collections of William K. Bixby. (Limited edition.)

Bradlee, Edward C. 153 volumes: Boston directories, reports, documents, etc.

British Museum. Catalogue of drawings by Dutch and Flemish artists. Vol. 1.

The Codex Alexandrinus in reduced photographic facsimile. Old Testament. Part 1.

Catalogue of printed books — Accessions. New series. Part 77, 1916.

Catalogue of music — Accessions. Part 23.

Brown, Allan A. 379 volumes for the Brown Collection of music.

Brown, Dr. Francis H. 236 volumes and 273 numbers of periodicals.

Bullard, The Misses. Eighty volumes, including the works of Josiah Royce, William James, Gardiner's History of England, translations from the Greek and Latin classics and a medallion of Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton, issued by the Circle of Friends of the Medallion, Sept. 1909.

Bullard, Dr. William N. 104 volumes, a miscellaneous collection.

Cabot, Miss Theodora. The Harbinger. 101 numbers from 1845 to 1848.

Curtis, Henry Pelham, Estate of. Through Mr. Laurence Curtis. 417 volumes, 392 numbers of periodicals and 48 photographs (Scenes in Paris during the Siege in 1870). Many of the volumes in fine bindings were substituted for worn Library copies.

Ditson, Oliver, Company. 416 volumes; music scores, albums and miscellaneous collections, publications of the Ditson Company.

Edes, Mrs. Henry H. 623 volumes, chiefly documents.

Great Britain. Patent Office. Sixty-nine volumes of British Patents.

Greene, Francis M., Cambridge. 138 volumes; a miscellaneous collection, including 48 volumes of Bibliotheca Curiosa and 40 volumes of Collectanea Adamantaea.

Hersey, Miss Heloise E. Ninety-five volumes and 92 photographs.

Hills, Frederick S. The Argus Co. Albany. New York State men — Individual library edition, with biographic studies. 20 monographs.

Howe, M. A. DeWolfe. The Boston Symphony Orchestra — An historical sketch by M. A. DeW. Howe. Large paper edition, illustrated. (For the Brown Collection of Music.)

Mead, Mrs. Edwin D. 1567 volumes; reports, periodicals and other serials, and 300 volumes of general literature.

Means, Mrs. James H. 2068 volumes, principally French and English literature, 120 numbers of periodicals, 683 post cards and 238 photographs of foreign and American views.

Morse, Miss Frances R. 103 volumes; reports, etc., and 272 numbers of periodicals.

Phillips, Edwin, Green Harbor. Through Miss Hilda White. 1425 pieces of sheet music "In memory of Adelaide and Matilda Phillips." Putnam, Mrs. C. P. Eighty-seven volumes, chiefly dictionaries, in the Turkish, Welsh and Danish languages.

Sampson & Murdock Co. Reprint edition of the first Boston Directory. Boston. 1789.

Ninety-one directories. Also 618 directories of New England cities and towns (31 places in all) on deposit.

Tsubouchi, Prof. F., Tokyo. Translations into Japanese of Hamlet, Merchant of Venice, Macbeth, Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Antony and Cleopatra and The Tempest.

Walcott, George H. Fifty volumes, publications on whist, chess, etc.

Walter, W. E. Metropolitan Opera Company — 79 photographs, 25 programs. For the Brown Collection of Music.

Two scrap-books — Material on the Metropolitan Opera Company in Boston, April, 1916.

The Russian Ballet, 1916.

Weston, Mrs. Warren. A collection of about 400 anti-slavery papers.

Wright, Miss Katherine. Forty-nine volumes of French literature, including 24 volumes of Bibliothèque Rose Illustrée.

THE CATALOGUE DEPARTMENT.

The following table presents, so far as it can be reduced to figures, a summary of the work performed in the Catalogue Department, under the direction of Mr. S. A. Chevalier, its Chief, in each of two successive years:

	VOLS. AND PARTS.	TITLES.	VOLS. AND PARTS.	TITLES.
Catalogued (new):		1915-16.		1916-17.
Central Library Catalogue . . .	24,515	14,252	20,267	11,841
Serials	4,985	.....	4,040	.....
Branches	19,184	16,747	17,941	16,196
Re-catalogued	29,684	11,147	36,967	13,426
Totals	78,368	42,846	79,215	41,463

The number of cards added to the Catalogue during the year is 207,058. Of these 17,049 were added to the catalogue cases at the Branches. In order to make the new books available to the public through the catalogue as soon as possible, temporary author and subject, or title cards, are filed in the Bates Hall Catalogue cases within a few days after the receipt of every new bound work. Since the enlargement of the catalogues

encroaches upon space, somewhat thinner card stock is now used than was formerly the case.

As in every large library open to unrestricted public use, the soiling of the card catalogue by constant handling, presents a serious problem. Continual reprinting of cards is necessary, and as much time as possible has been devoted to such work. Newly printed labels for the drawers in the main catalogue will also soon be substituted for those which are much soiled, and it is intended to cover them with celluloid in order to keep them clean.

The first supplement to the Allen A. Brown Music Catalogue has been finished, including titles added to the Collection up to September 1, 1916, and about one-quarter of the catalogue of the Brown Dramatic Collection is in type. The main body of the Music Catalogue was completed in 1915, as stated in the report covering that year. Consisting of 10 parts, adapted to be bound in three volumes, it constitutes in its completed form the most elaborate catalogue ever issued by the Library, reflecting credit upon the members of the staff who have been concerned in its preparation and upon the Printing and Bindery Departments which have been responsible for the mechanical production.

Work is proceeding to bring the special Fine Arts Catalogue up-to-date, and upon its rearrangement. About 1,730 titles have been re-catalogued in connection with this work. Much work has also been performed in re-cataloguing and re-locating atlases and maps. The need for a better arrangement of the map collection is urgent and it should be provided at an early date.

As heretofore, much service has been performed in the Catalogue Department in general bibliographical work, some of it in response to public requests, and in connection with the selection and purchase of books, including the examination and checking publishers' lists and sales catalogues. Mr. Chevalier also reports:

Duplicate volumes and parts (3,090 in number) have been sent out for sale on exchange account. These, and many duplicates from gifts and from the branches, have been compared with copies on the shelves with a view to keeping the most perfect ones. Many works in the general collection have been transferred to

special collections for greater safety and convenience. In such cases, new numbering and new records, etc., are necessary. The amount of work involved cannot be computed in figures.

SHELF DEPARTMENT.

The statistics relating to the number of volumes shelved, and thus made available for public use, drawn from the report of Mr. W. G. T. Roffe, in charge of the Shelf Department, are as follows:

Placed on the Central Library shelves during the year:		
General collection, new books (including continuations)	.	19,649
Special collections, new books	.	2,287
Books reported lost or missing in previous years but now found, transfers from branches, etc.	.	1,265
		23,201
Removed from the Central Library shelves during the year:		
Books reported lost or missing, condemned copies not yet replaced, transfers, etc.	.	9,313
Net gain, Central Library	.	13,888
Net gain at branches (including reading-room stations)	.	4,047
Net gain, entire library system	.	17,935

The total number of volumes available for public use at the end of each year since the formation of the Library is shown below:

1852-53	.	.	9,688	1873-74	.	.	.	260,550
1853-54	.	.	16,221	1874-75	.	.	.	276,918
1854-55	.	.	22,617	1875-76	.	.	.	297,873
1855-56	.	.	28,080	1876-77	.	.	.	312,010
1856-57	.	.	34,896	1877-78	.	.	.	345,734
1857-58	.	.	70,851	1878-79	.	.	.	360,963
1858-59	.	.	78,043	1879-80	.	.	.	377,225
1859-60	.	.	85,031	1880-81	.	.	.	390,982
1860-61	.	.	97,386	1881-82	.	.	.	404,221
1861-62	.	.	105,034	1882-83	.	.	.	422,116
1862-63	.	.	110,563	1883-84	.	.	.	438,594
1863-64	.	.	116,934	1884-85	.	.	.	453,947
1864-65	.	.	123,016	1885	.	.	.	460,993
1865-66	.	.	130,678	1886	.	.	.	479,421
1866-67	.	.	136,080	1887	.	.	.	492,956
1867-68	.	.	144,092	1888	.	.	.	505,872
1868-69	.	.	152,796	1889	.	.	.	520,508
1869-70	.	.	160,573	1890	.	.	.	536,027
1870-71	.	.	179,250	1891	.	.	.	556,283
1871-72	.	.	192,958	1892	.	.	.	576,237
1872-73	.	.	209,456	1893	.	.	.	597,152

1894	610,375	1906-07	903,349
1895	628,297	1907-08	922,348
1896-97	663,763	1908-09	941,024
1897-98	698,888	1909-10	961,522
1898-99	716,050	1910-11	987,268
1899-00	746,383	1911-12	1,006,717
1900-01	781,377	1912-13	1,049,011
1901-02	812,264	1913-14	1,067,103
1902-03	835,904	1914-15	1,098,702
1903-04	848,884	1915-16	1,121,747
1904-05	871,050	1916-17	1,139,682
1905-06	878,933		
Volumes in entire library system			1,139,682
In the branches and reading-room stations			282,227

These volumes are located as follows:

Central Library	857,455	West Roxbury	9,895
Brighton	20,244	Lower Mills (Station A) .	912
Charlestown	15,700	Roslindale (Station B) .	8,205
Codman Square	5,853	Mattapan (Station D) .	992
Dorchester	20,418	Neponset (Station E) .	1,504
East Boston	16,943	Mt. Bowdoin (Station F) .	5,341
Hyde Park	27,954	Allston (Station G) .	2,204
Jamaica Plain	15,864	Mt. Pleasant (Station N) .	3,025
North End	6,752	Tyler Street (Station P) .	3,439
Roxbury:		Warren Street (Station R) .	2,835
Fellowes Athenaeum	29,636	Roxbury Crossing (Station S) .	2,030
Owned by City	6,928	Boylston Station (Station T) .	2,176
Total, Roxbury	36,564	Andrew Square (Station Y) .	2,269
South Boston	17,582	Orient Heights (Station Z) .	2,122
South End	16,883	City Point (Station 23) .	3,139
Upham's Corner	9,382	Parker Hill (Station 24) .	1,438
West End	18,507	Faneuil (Station 25) .	2,055
Net gain, Central Library			13,888
Net gain at branches (including reading-room stations)			4,047
Net gain, entire library system			17,935

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Miss Alice M. Jordan, Chief of the Children's Department at the Central Library, notes in her report the effect of the epidemic of infantile paralysis after the summer vacation in restricting the attendance and circulation. But the great development in the general work with young readers is also noted. As in previous years, instruction has been given, by means of talks, to classes from the schools, upon library methods and the use of the catalogues, books of reference, etc. And in the same direction the influence of the Library has been felt in informal

talks on library subjects given by Miss Jordan, by request, before Mother's associations, clubs, and elsewhere. Lists of books for young readers have frequently been prepared in the Children's Department in response to personal requests or in answer to correspondence. Requests of this kind show a recognition of the specialized service to the public which the Department is prepared to give. Miss Jordan also notes "the growing inclination of boys and girls to turn to the library for help upon subjects of personal interest. These hobbies take many forms. It may be a wish to write a history of the world, which has brought two boys constantly to the Library, or the identification of a newly discovered butterfly, or directions for making a bi-plane. Whatever its immediate object a voluntary pursuit of information tends to make more vital the connection between the Library and the individual."

The Teachers' Reference Room in this Department now contains 2,366 books, part belonging to the collection of textbooks in use in the city schools, and the others are reference books properly belonging to a teachers' reference library, recommended by groups of teachers and conforming to the requirements for promotional examinations. There are also 25 periodicals, relating to education subjects, currently received, besides government reports and bulletins connected with pedagogy.

Grateful acknowledgment is made of gifts of plants and flowers for the Children's Room, and especially for those received from Mrs. Edward Peirce, of Weston; and for specimens received from the Arnold Arboretum.

BATES HALL.

This is not only the main reading room of the Library, but connected with it, as its most convenient location within the building is the main card catalogue station, within which is placed the public reference desk, under charge of Mr. Frank H. Chase. On the open shelves of the Hall itself is a classified collection (about 10,000 volumes) of standard books in various departments of literature, available to all readers without formality. A reorganization of this collection, which with minor

changes has been in place since the building was opened, is contemplated, so as to broaden the subjects of recent interest by the introduction of better and more modern books, retiring others of less present value. The chief difficulty encountered in such a reorganization of the shelves, is the long-established fixed classification for locating the books. Heretofore this collection has been regarded as in the main fixed and rigid. But this system may be modified, so that the collection may be made responsive to the progress of human knowledge.

It should be understood that, however great the convenience and usefulness of a proper open shelf collection, readers in the Hall are by no means confined to the books on the open shelves, but may have brought to them any book or books from the stacks. And it has been our custom to bring together in the Hall small temporary collections of the best books relating to subjects of immediate importance, changing such collections from time to time, as occasion has required.

The steady receipt of inquiries by mail, properly to be answered by reference to books, enlarges the public service of the reference department, and Mr. Chase has reported a classified list of such inquiries, answered between May 1 and January 5, a period arbitrarily selected. The total number within this period was 321, coming from 34 states of the Union, from four provinces of Canada, and from England, Scotland, and Wales. Reference inquiries are constantly received by telephone also, and these are answered so far as it is possible to answer them intelligently within reasonable limits of time. The subjects of such inquiries cover an extremely wide field, and relate to matters of practical knowledge in business, industry, genealogy, local history, politics, etc., besides those which are more or less directly connected with literature.

Besides the use of the open-shelf books approximately three-quarters of a million call slips (for stack books) are required annually for the use of readers at the tables in Bates Hall. Mr. Pierce E. Buckley, in charge of the Center Desk, reports a record of the use of the reading-room by non-residents of the city, drawn from an inspection of the slips presented from January

11 to 17. Within that week, 73 towns and cities in Massachusetts were represented, besides representatives of four other states, who were temporarily stopping in Boston.

THE SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

The so-called Special Libraries in the Central building include the following important departments: Fine Arts; Allan A. Brown Music Room; Barton-Ticknor Room (including numerous special collections).

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT.

In this department during the year 21,494 volumes have been circulated for home use (included in the statistics of circulation, pages 43-45) and a large amount of reference work performed for students and study classes, besides the provision of books for large numbers of readers at the tables. Here, also, reservations of tables, with books as requested, are made for classes under the direction of teachers or class leaders, with an attendance of upwards of 1500 students annually. The Fine Arts Department also provides and arranges the material for the numerous free exhibitions given in its Exhibition Room, and for the series of exhibitions given in routine at the branch libraries throughout the season. A full programme of these exhibitions is always announced in the Quarterly Bulletin of the Library. In many cases the exhibitions at the Central Library relate to subjects considered in the free lecture courses.

Circulation of Pictures.

The circulation of pictures from the Fine Arts Department, in response to requests from schools, study clubs and classes, and sent out in portfolios is shown in the following statements covering the year:

BORROWERS.		PORTFOLIOS
	ISSUED.	
Public schools	1,563	
Private schools	24	
Clubs	18	
Classes	21	
Sent to branches for exhibition or study	250	
Miscellaneous	137	
 Total		2,013

BARTON-TICKNOR ROOM.

Barton-Ticknor books issued	13,744
Maps used	1,086
Books from other departments, issued for readers in this room	5,213

In the long reading room opening from the Barton-Ticknor Room (called the Barton Gallery) books are reserved upon tables for persons engaged in authorship or pursuing more extended research work than that usually conducted in the more public reading rooms of the Library. The weekly record of reservations made here of books from the stacks shows an average of 462 volumes, the smallest weekly reservation being 325, and the largest, 587.

In the alcoves of the Barton-Ticknor Room and opening from the Barton Gallery are kept some of the most interesting and useful special collections possessed by the Library, these include the Bowditch Library (higher mathematics), 8,195 volumes; The George Ticknor Library (Spanish literature of especial rarity and value), 6,728 volumes; the Barton Collection (Shakespeareana, English drama of the 17th and 18th centuries, etc.), 13,823 volumes; the Franklin Collection (special works relating to government and political economy), 873 volumes; Lewis Collection (special Americana), 721 volumes; Twentieth Regiment (special Civil War literature, regimental histories, etc.), 2,796 volumes; the Galatea Collection (relating to the progress of women), 3,332 volumes; the Artz Collection (poetry and other works in special editions, or of special importance), 5,641 volumes; the Codman Collection (landscape architecture), 901 volumes; besides the Browning Collection, the Brown Dramatic Collection, the Thomas Prince Library, and many important incidental volumes of the highest literary interest and value. The total number of volumes contained in these special collections in the Barton alcoves or in the Barton Room at the close of the year was 61,890 and the number of volumes added to them during the year was 1,016.

ALLEN A. BROWN MUSIC ROOM.

In this room 11,790 volumes have been issued to readers for use at the tables. The number of pieces added to the collection

is 2,134. Of the volumes added 332 were either given by Mr. Brown or came from his estate after his death. The remainder were received from other sources by gift or purchase. Of these 1,425 came from the estate of Adelaide Phillipps, the celebrated singer. From the Oliver Ditson Company there were received more than 500 vocal scores of operas and oratorios, mostly modern. Many of these duplicated scores already in our collection, but by direction of the givers were to be used by us in gifts to other libraries.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES.

The use of the Lecture Hall in the Library has increased very materially during the year. Besides the regular free lecture courses provided by the Library on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons, lectures open to the public have been given under the auspices of teachers' clubs and various civic associations. These lectures as scheduled for the season (including some to be given during March and April, 1917, when the season ends) are as follows:

NOTE: — All lectures, except those marked with an asterisk (*), were illustrated with lantern slides.

1916

- Oct. 15. The Japanese at home. Etta Blaisdell McDonald.
- Oct. 19. Rhythm in the Kindergarten. Caroline Crawford. (Froebel Club.)
- Oct. 19. The Rhine and its Legends. C. S. Luitwieler.
- Oct. 22. London. Henry C. Wilson.
- Oct. 23. *The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and John Ruskin. May Smith Dean. (Ruskin Club.)
- Oct. 26. The Boston of Copley. Martha A. S. Shannon.
- Oct. 29. The Love and Study of Bird-Life. Horace Taylor.
- Nov. 2. Venezuela, the Land of the Orinoco. Charles Wellington Furlong.
- Nov. 5. *What of Recent Poetry? Heloise E. Hersey.
- Nov. 9. Guatemala and our other Central American Neighbors. Roger W. Babson. (Field and Forest Club.)
- Nov. 12. *How to See a Play. Frank Cheney Hersey.
- Nov. 13. *"Why Praise Ibsen?" Anne Warren Chapin. (Ruskin Club.)
- Nov. 16. The Turks and the Euphrates. Ellsworth Huntington.

Nov. 19. *Personal Character in its Relation to Practical Efficiency. Charles H. Eglee.

Nov. 21. *The Story Telling Situation. Mrs. George E. Partridge. (Froebel Club.)

Nov. 23. California and the Canadian Rockies. Charles H. Bayley.

Nov. 26. A Strange Story of the North Woods. W. Lyman Underwood.

Nov. 27. *Fichte's Philosophy of Knowledge. Joseph C. Whipple. (Ruskin Club.)

Dec. 3. Possibilities for a New England Festival for the Pilgrim Tercentenary Celebration. Lotta A. Clark.

Dec. 4. Old Boston. G. G. Wolkins. (Field and Forest Club.)

Dec. 6. South America. (Castilian Club.)

Dec. 7. Il Beato Angelico. The Friar Painter, in the light of modern criticism. Charles Theodore Carruth.

Dec. 10. Our Four-Footed Friends. Mrs. Huntington Smith.

Dec. 14. The National Forests of our Eastern Mountains. Philip W. Ayres. (Field and Forest Club.)

Dec. 17. Our Wild Animal Neighbors. Ernest Harold Baynes.

Dec. 21. The New Sargent Decorations in the Library. Alicia M. Keyes.

Dec. 24. *Holiday Music in Many Lands. Constance Ramsay and Henry L. Gideon. With musical illustrations.

Dec. 28. The New Century and the Old Architecture. Charles D. Maginnis.

Dec. 31. Seeing the Far East by Working Your Way. Fred A. Boardman.

1917

Jan. 4. Sicily. Francis Henry Wade.

Jan. 7. Fisherman's Luck. W. Lyman Underwood.

Jan. 8. The Seven Lamps of Architecture. Minnie Meserve Soule. (Ruskin Club.)

Jan. 11. Mount Rainier and Glacier National Park. Elizabeth F. Fisher. (Field and Forest Club.)

Jan. 14. *The American dramatists. Frank Cheney Hersey.

Jan. 17. *The Visiting Housekeeper as a Community Force. Winifred Gibbs. (N. E. Home Economics Association.)

Jan. 18. The Land of Dikes and Windmills. Fred E. Marble.

Jan. 21. *"Musical Progress." Edward B. Hill. With musical illustrations.

Jan. 22. *Andrea Chenier. Havrah Hubbard. With musical illustrations. (Ruskin Club.)

Jan. 23. The Central American Expedition of 1916 of the Carnegie Institution. S. G. Morley. (Archaeological Institute of America.)

Jan. 25. The Making of a Bronze Statue. Cyrus E. Dallin.

Jan. 28. What we Really Know About Shakespeare. Francis H. Wade.

Jan. 29. *The Montessori Method. Dr. Maria Montessori. (N. E. Montessori Association.)

Feb. 1. Design in Nature and Art. Vesper L. George.

Feb. 4. *The Needs of American Music. John A. O'Shea. Assisted by pupils of Boston schools.

Feb. 8. Russia. George E. Davis. (Field and Forest Club.)

Feb. 11. Rome and Northern Italy. Mrs. Arthur D. Ropes.

Feb. 12. Every Day Art. Huger Elliott. (Ruskin Club.)

Feb. 13. *American Drama Before the Civil War. A. H. Gilmer. (Drama League.)

Feb. 15. The Scenery of Famous Novels. Frank Cheney Hersey.

Feb. 18. The Evolution of Bird Life. Horace Taylor.

Feb. 20. *Two Realities in Education. Joseph Lee. (Froebel Club.)

Feb. 21. The Business Side of Home Making. Agnes S. Donham. (Mass. State Federation of Women's Clubs.)

Feb. 25. The Old Boston Museum. John Bouvé Clapp.

Feb. 26. How to Judge Architecture. Huger Elliott. (Ruskin Club.)

Feb. 27. *The Real Beginnings of American Drama. Joseph R. Taylor. (Drama League.)

Mar. 1. Rome, a History in Stone. Huger Elliott.

Mar. 4. *The Material Essence of Music. Leo R. Lewis. With musical illustrations.

Mar. 6. Old Boston Theatres. John Bouvé Clapp. (Drama League.)

Mar. 8. A Typical Country Agricultural School. Warren K. Blodgett, 2nd. (Field and Forest Club.)

Mar. 11. *Celtic Influences in English Literature. John J. Walsh.

Mar. 12. *Readings from "Ben-Hur." Della Crowder Miller. (Ruskin Club.)

Mar. 14. *The Problems of Mothers. Miss Parker. With demonstrations by pupils from the Montessori Free School. (N. E. Montessori Association.)

Mar. 15. Every-Day Architecture. Frank Chouteau Brown.

Mar. 18. *Celtic Folk-Music. Benedict FitzGerald. Assisted by Jessie Morse Berenson, soprano.

Mar. 20. *Our Boys. Arthur Wardell. (Froebel Club.)

Mar. 20. *American Drama of the Last Five Years. George P. Baker. (Drama League.)

Mar. 21. An Adequate Diet. Percy G. Stiles. (N. E. Home Economics Association.)

Mar. 22. Domenico Ghirlandajo: The great wall painter of Florence. Charles Theodore Carruth.

Mar. 25. Historic Homes of New England. Park Pressey.

Mar. 26. *Ralph Waldo Emerson. Rev. Benjamin Bulkeley. (Ruskin Club.)

Mar. 27. New Methods of Stage Production. Frank Cheney Hersey. (Drama League.)

Mar. 28. *Food Values. Frederic W. Howe. (Mass. State Federation of Women's Clubs.)

Mar. 29. With the American Troops on the Mexican Border. Frank P. Sibley.

Apr. 1. Famous Processions that have passed down Boston Streets. Mrs. J. W. Ferguson Kennedy.

Apr. 3. *American Literary Drama. Josephine Preston Peabody. (Drama League.)

Apr. 12. Greater Boston as an Arboretum. George Winthrop Lee. (Field and Forest Club.)

Apr. 16. The Madonna. Mrs. John L. Stoddard. (Ruskin Club.)

Apr. 23. *Belgium. Ellen Page. (Ruskin Club.)

USE OF THE LIBRARY BY NON-RESIDENTS.

The use of the Bates Hall Reading-Room by readers from out of the City has been mentioned (page 58). As a clear indication of the entire use of the Library in this way, the place of residence of persons calling for books on slips for reading-room consultation (including also readers in the Newspaper Room), in all of the important reading-rooms at the Central Library was kept for one week (January 11-17, 1917) with the following result: total number, 7,564; residents of Boston (including temporary residents in hotels), 5,411; of other cities and towns in Massachusetts, 2,066; of cities and towns in other states, 69; from out of the United States, 18. Percentage of non-residents, 28.5.

It should be borne in mind that many of the non-residents are students attending institutions of learning centered in the City or in places adjacent to the City.

In this connection it may be mentioned that in the Act of the Legislature granting to the City the land (occupied in part by the Central Library building) it was especially provided that "upon the opening of said library all the citizens of the Commonwealth shall have the perpetual right of access thereto, free of charge

under such reasonable regulations" as the Trustees may from time to time establish.

The richness of the collections of this Library (some of which, in the Barton Alcoves, have been especially mentioned) attracts to the City scholars from elsewhere who come for the purpose of consulting here books which can be found nowhere else in the country. There are many books for the use of such students that the Library should possess, and would have purchased except for financial limitations. But the gifts of certain collections *en bloc*, by scholarly benefactors in the past, supplemented by such purchases as we have been able to make from time to time, have put in our possession books that it is now difficult to obtain, even were money available for buying them. And notwithstanding our limitations these collections give to the Library a distinctive position among the libraries in the United States.

BRANCHES AND STATIONS.

An important element of service rendered by the Boston Public Library is that performed through the Branch Department. In our system we have 14 principal branches and 16 minor branches (termed reading-room stations) and by means of an organized plan of daily communication by wagons between these branches and the Central Library the central collection is brought directly within reach of residents in every part of the City. In no other city is this inter-communicating system of branches more efficiently organized, and in some cities such a system has not yet been developed. But with us the demand for books from the Central to be sent out in this way increases, and requests for the establishment of new branches show that the public regards this service as of great value. Indeed, if the branch privileges are once used they are seldom given up. I think it well to repeat what was said in the report for 1914, as the paragraph contains information as to the operation of the Branch System which is needed to show its importance clearly.

Unless one comes into direct contact with it, the work of the Branch Department cannot be appreciated. Through its activities the facilities of the Central Library, with its valuable collections of circulating books, are

made available in the out-lying districts of the City, and the various branch collections supplement the Central in bringing the books near to the homes of the people. Each branch library is the centre of a group of schools, and it is the especial duty of the custodians to care for the demand for books from the schools assigned to their districts respectively. Books are sent to the schools on deposit, by requests from teachers, through the Branch Department. Special collections of books, required for reference work in connection with the course of study, are reserved at the branches for the use of pupils; pictures are sent directly from the branches to the schools, (supplementing the portfolios sent from the Central Library); and the schools are visited periodically for the purpose of issuing library cards. The Department also arranges for the deposits of books at various institutions, and the work of inter-library lending. All this work is likely to increase continuously, as the demand through the branches increases with the growth of the City.

The relation of the branches to those who use books is in some respects closer than that gained through any other function of the Library.

The following figures summarize the operations of the Branch Department for the year:

Circulation through the branches (recorded also on pages 44-45)	1,776,745
Total cost of operation, chargeable against the City appropriation	\$146,866.45

Under normal conditions the circulation, as in the previous year, would have shown a gain, but the causes referred to (page 43) which have affected the entire circulation of the Library have affected the Branch circulation also, reducing it slightly (i.e. by 58,381 volumes). Besides the 30 branches (principal and minor) the Branch Department has also served the following subsidiary agencies of distribution: Fire Department houses, 62; other institutions, 36; public and parochial schools, 161; making in all (including branches), 289.

The circulation through the Branches which, as the years go on, will naturally increase, could with advantage be enlarged if the Library possessed a larger deposit collection at the Central Library, especially for branch uses. When the addition to the Central building now under erection has been completed opportunity for shelving an enlarged collection will be open, and it is to be hoped that money for buying the books will be forthcoming, especially books for young readers and for use in connection with school deposits. Upon this point of the need of more

books (in the branch collections themselves as well as available for branch use from the Central) one Branch Custodian remarks in her annual report to Mr. Langdon L. Ward, Supervisor of Branches:

The work with the schools continues to grow, and books are sent to every school in the district, one school having deposits in all the rooms. The one parochial school in this district has had 500, and more books could be circulated if we had them.

The Custodians of Branches (the title given to those in direct charge of branches, sometimes called in other library systems "Branch Librarians") often include, in their reports to Mr. Ward, interesting statements as to their work, and some of these I reproduce. The first two relate to the kind of reading done at the Branches:

(1) We have many readers who have no library cards but who come every day or evening to read at the tables. If a record were kept of the books and periodicals read in this way it would certainly equal 75 per cent of the circulation figures. It is interesting to notice the books left on the tables at closing time after a busy evening. Last week the following were some of the books: The cardinal's snuff box; Dictionary of phrase and fable; The health of the city; History of Ireland; Life of Edward the Seventh; Lincoln the lawyer; Rules of the game; The call of the wild; Kent's practical engineers' pocketbook; Tennyson's poems; Track athletics.

(2) For the past two years on the last Sunday of the year I have made a list of books left by readers on the table at the close of the evening. This year's list is as follows: Agostini, Atlante geografico metodico; Alamanaco italiano; Cellini, Vita; Cervantes, Don Chisciotte; Dumas, Il conte di Montecristo; Eliot, Silas Marner; Furlani, Italian Grammar; Gherardi, Monglie e buoi de paesi tuoi; Hale, Man without a country; Hudson, Green mansions; I viaggi di Livingstone; King, The way home; London, Call of the wild; Melani, Scultura italiana; Magni, Studio della letteratura italiana; Perini, Italian Grammar; Rivista delle biblioteche e degli archivi; Sauer, Italian grammar; Simonin, Gli stati uniti; Vasallo, Dieci Monologhi; Verne, Cinque settimane in pallone; Verne, Della terra alla luna.

As to the assistance frequently given at the Branches (as at the Central Library) upon courses of reading, the following is significant:

People who come to the library often ask me to make out lists of books. One woman asked me to give her a short list of historical novels which she

could recommend to a friend of hers. Another person asked me for a list of books which were suitable for a shut-in. The longest list of books that I was asked to make was for a woman who wished to buy some books to start a small library in the reading room of a club for young people in whom she was interested. As the young people varied in age I marked which books were for the younger and which for the older group.

The circulation of pictures from the Fine Arts Department of the Central Library for exhibition purposes in connection with instruction at the schools or by classes has been mentioned. The Branches also have what may be called popular collections of pictures, in many cases cut by the assistants from illustrated periodicals and properly mounted for the use of teachers in elementary instruction. This general circulation of pictures has become one of the important features of library service. As to the requests from the schools a Custodian remarks:

For several years the character of the requests received from the schools for pictures has been undergoing a change from the domain of general interest to that of immediate timeliness. Ten years ago, when the idea of illustrating lessons by pictures from the Library was in the initial stage, requests were general in character. Pictures of poets or statesmen, or of animals, flowers and fruits were in demand. The subject of history was confined to the Atlantic Coast. Geography was confined to the United States and to vague views of foreign countries. They were frequently borrowed because they looked well exhibited in the schoolroom.

Then there came a change. It was brought about, possibly by communications from the Library "concerning the use of pictures." The new idea took root, from it came new initiative. Soon the stock collections were inadequate, or at least were too general. Requests for pictorial matter relating to separate countries as for instance, Asia or Africa, were expanded into requests for sub-divisions of a country under such headings as Coastline of England, Manufactures of Germany, Surface of Russia, etc.

Since then there have been several expansions of subjects, such for example as requests for pictures of land and water forms, hills and valleys, plains, etc. Other requests are for pictures showing industrial operations. Naturally, it happens that during the period when the demand is changing from subjects already in stock to new or more specialized ones there is bound to be a lack of material. For example, a year ago we supplied from our large collection of pictures relating to industries, those illustrating the production of tea, cotton or lumber. But now, perhaps because of the new interests in certain industries, the requests are for pictures illustrating the

manufacture of leather, woolen goods, steel products, linen and Oriental rugs. In the same way we are not asked for pictures of the iron and coal industries without regard to location, the requests are for iron and coal in Pennsylvania, or the wool industry of Australia. Until our resources are developed to this new standard we shall be unable to supply some requests.

From another Branch comes the following:

Our collection of pictures numbers about 3000 plates. We now have these so arranged under the main headings that we can easily make up a collection on almost any subject. For instance, suppose we have the topic "Regular and irregular coast lines," the pictures to supply this demand may come from twelve collections other than "Water forms." "Animals and vegetation" of a particular country may perhaps be supplied from twenty titles. As an example of the analysis of a collection I cite "Land forms:" Atoll (see Coral reef), Bad lands . . . Dakota, Beach, Canyon, Cape, Cliff, Coast, Coral reef, Desert, Divide, Dunes, Headland, Hill, Island, Peninsula, Plain, Plateau, Prairie, Promontory, Swamp, Table land, Valley, Volcano.

Of the close connection now established between the Library and the schools, and of the kind of material required, custodians report:

(1) That teachers depend upon the library to supplement school work is shown by the way they send pupils to the library with topics for home lessons and with no reference to sources or special books, leaving the selection of material to the reference librarian. The teachers also show their appreciation of the value of the library through the fact that nearly all have ordered and used Central Library deposit books on subjects of study for the year, supplemented by pictures from the Fine Arts Department to illustrate the teaching of many subjects.

(2) As we all appreciate, the training of the child is more than ever of a practical or vocational nature, therefore many requests for library material are on the subjects of millinery, dressmaking, carpentering, iron work, cooking, candy making, books about lumbering, conservation, concrete work, farming, irrigation, fruit growing, gardening, useful plants, medicinal roots, animal life, geological research, and commercial topics of all kinds.

(3) Reference work never flags when the schools are in session, and brings all sorts of questions, some of them most unusual and difficult to answer. Generally we can find something to help the questioner. Industries, historical subjects, commercial geography, and books on debating, are some of the topics. More reference work is done here on Sundays than in previous years, and more adults use the Branch for this purpose.

In further reference to the adult readers who use the branches (mentioned in the last extract) another Custodian remarks:

We have in our adults' room many earnest people who consider the library a vital necessity. To cite a few instances of such users: A school nurse depends on us to supply her with the best reading along the line of her work. A young salesman telephones a day ahead what subject he will call for. A student from the Institute of Technology comes here to write themes and is now working on his graduation thesis. A tired teacher has been cured of the blues by continued application of light fiction. A woman lately returned from work in a French hospital wishes good war literature, etc.

THE CHILDREN'S STORY-HOUR.

The story-hour work, under professional guidance has continued during the year. This, with us, is not merely for the temporary amusement of those who hear the stories told, but, although entertainment is inseparable from the work, it is planned so as to lead out into the love and use of books. Mrs. Cronan who, as in previous years, conducted the story-telling (at the Central Library on Saturday afternoons, and with groups at various branches), reports, in part, as follows:

In these groups the object of the work is the same: — to stimulate interest in worth-while books and help the children to form the "library habit." "Have you a library card?" is one of the first questions asked. "The story-hour," we remind the children, "is a partnership affair. Our part is to tell the story; yours to find the book and read the story for yourself."

During the year the children have been made familiar with the contents of the following books, told in the form of a continued story, in various classes: Rob Roy, Red Gauntlet (Scott); Jan of the windmill (Ewing); Great expectations (Dickens); Martin Hyde (Masefield); Kidnapped (Stevenson); The little shepherd of Kingdom Come (Fox); The little duke (Yonge); Desert and wilderness (Sienkiewicz); Tales of the Labrador (Dr. Grenfell); Jacqueline (a story of the siege of Leyden); Katrienka (Haskell); Under Greek skies (Dragoumis); A boy of Erin (Padriac Colum); Water babies (Kingsley); The story of Fort Loudon, Men of iron (Pyle).

Stories have been told from Shakespeare, Rustum and Sohrab, King Arthur, Jungle tales, Pickwick papers, The Blue Bird, Beowulf, Queen's Museum by Stockton, The Rhinegold, Celtic hero tales, Robin Hood, Tales from the Earthly Paradise, Spenser's Faerie Queene, Herodotus, The golden porch. In biography: The life of Washington, Lincoln, Jacob Riis, John Muir (in preparation, to be told with "Stickeen"), Thor-

waldsen and Titian. There were special holiday stories, fairy and folk stories from Russia, Spain, Japan, China, Italy, Sweden, Norway, etc.; true stories of heroism from the trenches; and the Story of the Christ of the Andes.

It is delightful to discover that the desire to hear well told stories increases as time goes on. After years of work we find that our most eager and appreciative listeners are in the groups that have had the story hour for the longest time. One who has not observed children closely might think that they would soon weary of simple, normal entertainment, since the excitement provided by the motion-picture programme is always at hand. We find instead that numbers of children hear stories in their own branch library, then walk a long distance to another story hour and that these children become discriminating readers with a real delight in literature.

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

Mr. John J. Keenan, Chief of the Registration Department, reports the so-called "live" cards (that is, cards available for present use) outstanding at the end of the year as follows:

Total number	104,325
Held by men and boys	45,305
Held by women and girls	59,020
Held by persons over 16 years of age	56,690
Held by persons under 16 years of age	47,635
Pupils cards (elementary schools, public and parochial)	36,394
Students' cards (higher institutions of learning)	27,312

The number of "live" cards shows a decrease for the year of 7,874 in total. This decrease is unquestionably due to the same unusual causes which have restricted circulation (referred to on page 43). It is very largely (to the extent of more than two-thirds) in cards held by the pupil and student classes, and it is also largely caused by the failure, by these classes, to renew at once cards whose term limit (of two years) has expired. Indeed, the number of new registrations (while affected by the causes which have affected the total) have kept much nearer the normal number than the number of lapsed and as yet unrenewed cards, which for the year was about 25 per cent above the normal.

It will be remembered that the opening of the schools after the summer vacation was delayed about four weeks by the prevalent infantile paralysis. It was even longer than that before our work with the pupils was completely resumed. The work of re-registration usually spread over the 20 weeks from Sep-

tember 1st to January 31st was thus confined to 16 weeks only. There is no doubt that the loss in borrowing power, by the lapse of cards under these conditions is apparent rather than real, and that many of them will eventually be renewed.

VARIOUS STATISTICS.

Distribution of Documents.

The distribution of library publications for the year is shown below:

Sent to Departments for free distribution	134,502
Sent to Departments for sale	373
Free, direct distribution	2,960
Distributed for library use	87

The publications of the Library are issued for the purpose of promoting the convenient use of the books by the public. A statement as to those published during the year follows.

Publications.

The publications for the year, issued under the editorial supervision of Mr. Lindsay Swift, are:

Weekly Lists. From January 15, 1916, to January 13, 1917, 53 numbers. Edition, each issue, 2,500 copies. Consecutive pages in all, 266. These lists are for immediate use by the public and contain titles of the books added, week by week. The lists are freely distributed at the Central Library and at the Branches.

Quarterly Bulletins. Four numbers. Edition, each issue 2,000 copies Pages, in all, 408. These bulletins bring together the classified titles of the more important books added each quarter, with occasional brief bibliographical notes. They also contain the announcements of University Extension Courses, The Lowell Institute and other free courses, and the programmes of exhibitions and lectures given by the Library. Reprints of these announcements are also issued to supply a public demand. The Bulletin issued March 31, contained a list of works on Shakespearean Music, for use in connection with the Shakespeare Tercentenary.

Besides the routine publications listed above, the Catalogue of the John Adams Library, held by us, was published in January, in an edition of 500 copies. This interesting and valuable

library, the private collection of President John Adams, was moved in 1894 from the Thomas Crane Public Library, in Quincy, to the Boston Public Library, under a vote of the Supervisors of the Adams Temple and School Fund and accepted in trust by the Trustees of this Library. The published catalogue contains, in a preface prepared by Mr. Swift, an account of the collection, historical and descriptive.

*The Bates Hall Centre Desk, Newspaper and Patent Rooms,
Central Library.*

The usual statistics, reported by Mr. Pierce E. Buckley, Custodian, are as follows:

Centre Desk. The highest recorded maximum attendance of readers in Bates Hall, during any one day was 315, on December 10, and the smallest, 136, on August 13.

Newspaper Room. Number of papers currently taken and regularly filed for readers, 301. Of these, 215 are published in America, and 85 abroad. The dailies number 226 and weeklies 74. The receipt of foreign papers has been interfered with by the war, and those from Germany, Austria and Russia have for the most part not been received at all. The maximum attendance of readers in the Newspaper Room at any one time was 204 on February 27, and the smallest 103 on July 30.

The number of volumes added to the newspapers files was 152, and the total collection numbers 8,070 bound volumes. During the year 19,279 persons consulted 32,633 volumes from these files, which may be compared with 33,200 volumes consulted in 1915 by 18,035 persons. Various numbers of 18th century papers have been bought, as opportunity offered, to aid in completing our collection, and a complete file of the New York Mirror substituted for an incomplete set. Our file of the Boston News-Letter has been enlarged by photo-stat copies acquired from the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Patent Room. Number of volumes added during the year, 246. Total number in collection, 13,607. During the year, in this room, 19,564 persons have consulted 108,029 volumes. The

previous year 17,512 persons consulted 10,092 volumes. In neither year do these figures cover a certain amount of unrecorded use of books from the open shelves. As in the case of newspapers and periodicals, the receipt of foreign patents from countries affected by the war has virtually ceased.

The Periodical Room, Central Library.

Mr. Francis J. Hannigan, Custodian of the Periodical Room, reports the number of readers in the room, at certain hours, in each of two successive years, as follows:

HOURS:	10	12	2	4	6	8	10
	A.M.	M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
1916-17	9,936	13,783	21,295	26,732	19,331	23,206	8,491
1915-16	9,922	13,872	21,164	26,873	19,434	23,402	8,576

The use of the bound files continues very large, as thus shown:

Bound volumes consulted during the year:	1916-17	1915-16
In the daytime (week days)	32,647	33,742
In the evening or on Sundays	13,296	13,401

On some days the use of the files by students is unusually large. For example, on January 10, 487 bound magazines were consulted. On March 6, 462 unbound magazines were used during the day.

The periodicals (of current issue), regularly filed for readers in the Periodical Room, number 1,171, and in the Newspaper Room, 105. Besides these there are filed for use by readers in other departments, current periodicals especially relating to the field covered by such departments, the following:

Fine Arts Department and Music Room	133
Statistical Department	42
Teachers' Reference Room	47

Documents and Statistics.

Mr. Horace L. Wheeler, in charge of the Statistical Department, reports that the collection now contains 20,452 volumes definitely placed and entered on the shelf list of the Department, an increase of 519 volumes during the year. The circulation of

books from the Department (indicating the use of this special collection) was as follows:

	VOLUMES.
For use in the building, outside the Department	3,921
For use in the Department at the reading tables	5,000
For home use, charged out	1,932

Students from the School for Social Workers, Simmons College, Boston University (College of Business Administration), Harvard School of Business Administration, Harvard Medical School and the Institute of Technology, make use of the books contained in this Department.

Sunday and Evening Service, Central Library.

The average number of books lent on Sundays and holidays, for use outside the building was 806 (859 in 1915-16). The largest number on any single Sunday (or holiday) was 1380 (1353 in 1915-16). The largest number of readers in the Bates Hall Reading Room on any single Sunday was 315 on December 10 (301 in 1915-16, on October 31, 1915).

The Printing Department.

The statistics furnished by Mr. Francis Watts Lee, Chief of the Printing Department, are comparable for each of the two successive years as follows:

	1915-16.	1916-17.
Requisitions on hand at opening of year	2	
Requisitions received during the year	152	170
Requisitions on hand at end of year	2	9
Requisitions filled during the year	150	163
Card Catalogue (Central):		
Titles (Printing Dept. count)	18,030	20,394
Cards finished (excluding extras)	217,505	181,609
Titles in type, but not printed	228	804
Card Catalogue (Branches):		
Titles (Printing Dept. count)	424	248
Cards (approximately)	23,320	17,640
Pamphlets, not elsewhere enumerated	15,480	31,388
Call slips	3,217,800	1,743,600
Stationery and blank forms	876,151	695,591
Signs	573	367
Blank books	14	176
Catalogue drawer labels (different)	3,007	....

The Bindery.

The following statistical statement covering the work in the Bindery Department, is drawn from the report of Mr. James W. Kenney, its Chief:

	1915-16.	1916-17.
Number of volumes bound, various styles	44,543	41,863
Magazines stitched	225	220
Volumes repaired	3,987	3,410
Volumes guarded	1,458	1,331
Maps mounted	138	97
Photographs and engravings mounted	6,225	3,437
Library publications, folded, stitched and trimmed	158,144	164,973

This does not include, in either year, considerable other miscellaneous work, such, for example, as the making of portfolios, blocking paper, the making of periodical covers (always a considerable item) and the making of boxes, pouches, pads, blotters, etc. Any statistical comparison of the items of work of one year with another is also more or less misleading on account of differences in the character of the work, for example, 100 volumes bound in one year do not necessarily match or offset 100 volumes in another year, by reason of the difference in the kind of volumes. During the past year interruptions in employment of the full force (for various causes) have interfered somewhat with the output.

EXAMINATIONS.

Examinations for library service were given as follows: Grade E, May 20, 95 applicants of whom 53 passed; Grade E, September 23, 61 applicants of whom 34 passed; and Grade E, January 13, 1917, 74 applicants of whom 40 passed.

CHIEFS OF DEPARTMENTS AND CUSTODIANS OF BRANCHES
AND READING-ROOM STATIONS.

As at present organized, the various departments of the Library and the branches and reading-room stations are in charge of the following persons:

Otto Fleischner, Assistant Librarian.

Samuel A. Chevalier, Chief of Catalogue Department.

William G. T. Roffe, in Charge of Shelf Department.

Theodosia E. Macurdy, Chief of Ordering Department.

Frank H. Chase, Custodian of Bates Hall Reference Department.
Pierce E. Buckley, Custodian of Bates Hall Centre Desk, Patent and
Newspaper Departments.
Walter Rowlands, Acting Custodian of Special Libraries.
Francis J. Hannigan, Custodian of Periodical Room.
Barbara Duncan, In charge of Brown Music Room.
Walter G. Forsyth, In charge of Barton-Ticknor Room.
Frank C. Blaisdell, Chief of Issue Department.
Langdon L. Ward, Supervisor of Branches and Stations.
Alice M. Jordan, Chief of Children's Department.
John J. Keenan, Chief of Registration Department.
Horace L. Wheeler, First Assistant, in charge of Statistical Department.
Francis Watts Lee, Chief of Printing Department.
James W. Kenney, Chief of Bindery Department.
Henry Niederauer, Chief of Engineer and Janitor Department.
Marian W. Brackett, Custodian of Brighton Branch.
Katherine S. Rogan, Custodian of Charlestown Branch.
M. Florence Cufflin, Custodian of Codman Square Branch.
Elizabeth T. Reed, Custodian of Dorchester Branch.
Laura M. Cross, Custodian of East Boston Branch.
Elizabeth Ainsworth, Custodian of Hyde Park Branch.
Mary P. Swain, Custodian of Jamaica Plain Branch.
Edith Guerrier, Custodian of North End Branch.
Helen M. Bell, Custodian of Roxbury Branch.
Mary J. Minton, Custodian of South Boston Branch.
Margaret A. Sheridan, Custodian of South End Branch.
Josephine E. Kenney, Custodian of Upham's Corner Branch.
Alice M. Robinson, Custodian of West End Branch.
Carrie L. Morse, Custodian of West Roxbury Branch.
Mary A. Hill, Custodian of Station A, Lower Mills Reading Room.
Grace L. Murray, Custodian of Station B, Roslindale Reading Room.
Emma D. Capewell, Custodian of Station D, Mattapan Reading Room.
Mary M. Sullivan, Custodian of Station E, Neponset Reading Room.
Isabel E. Wetherald, Custodian of Station F, Mt. Bowdoin Reading
Room.
Katherine F. Muldoon, Custodian of Station G, Allston Reading Room.
Margaret H. Reid, Custodian of Station N, Mt. Pleasant Reading Room.
Cora L. Stewart, Custodian of Station P, Tyler Street Reading Room.
Florence M. Bethune, Custodian of Station R, Warren Street Reading
Room.
Katrina M. Sather, Custodian of Station S, Roxbury Crossing Reading
Room.
Elizabeth P. Ross, Custodian of Station T, Boylston Station Reading
Room.

Edith R. Nickerson, Custodian of Station Y, Andrew Square Reading Room.

Edith F. Pendleton, Custodian of Station Z, Orient Heights Reading Room.

Alice L. Murphy, Custodian of Station 23, City Point Reading Room.

Mary F. Kelley, Custodian of Station 24, Parker Hill Reading Room.

Gertrude L. Connell, Custodian of Station 25, Faneuil Reading Room.

CONCLUSION.

This is my fourteenth annual report, and as my resignation has been accepted by your Board, it will be the last which I shall have the honor to submit. As I have said in my letter of resignation I sincerely appreciate the support given me by the Trustees throughout my period of service. This, with the cordial relations which have always existed between us, has not only been gratifying to me, but, without question, has made possible whatever measure of success has attended my administration. The following table indicates certain changes which have taken place during my period of service:

	1902-03.	1916-17.
Population of City (estimated for inter-census years)	616,703	757,308
Library appropriation	\$300,000	\$409,080
Library appropriation to each individual in population	\$0.487	\$0.540
Borrowers' cards (available for use)	72,815	104,325
Percentage of borrowers' cards of population	11.8	13.8
Home use circulation	1,489,033	2,050,238

The resources of the Library, and its facilities for serving the public have been considerably developed during the period. The total number of volumes has risen from 835,904 to 1,139,682; the number in special collections from 97,152 to 135,370; and the number of photographs and process pictures, valuable as aids in the work of the Library with schools and classes, has increased from 21,403 to more than 30,000. The increase in the annual appropriation is shown in the table. The library trust funds have risen from \$283,742 to \$538,507. At the beginning of the year 1903, the library system included 10 principal branches 10 reading-room stations and two delivery stations. We now have 14 principal branches and 16 minor branches (reading-room stations) and no delivery stations merely, the last-named

agencies having been abandoned in favor of reading-rooms in charge of our own employees, by whom the public is more efficiently served.

The physical plant of the library system has been much improved. New branch buildings include the Codman Square Branch built as a municipal building but almost entirely devoted to library uses; the branch buildings at Jamaica Plain, Charlestown, and East Boston, all of which were especially planned to embody the requirements of the library administration. Convenient quarters conforming to our requirements in practical details have been provided for reading-rooms in the municipal buildings in South Boston, and on Vine Street, and for the Upham's Corner Branch in the municipal building on Columbia Road. In several important instances, improved rooms, especially arranged have been provided for other reading-rooms. The South End Branch, for some years in the basement of the High School building on Montgomery Street, is now occupying exclusive quarters in the church building, 397 Shawmut Avenue, and a new building for library uses has been acquired by purchase at 100 Brooks Street, for a reading-room established at the time in the Faneuil District of Brighton. An extensive addition to the Central Library building, on Blagden Street, is approaching completion.

The increased use of the Library is shown in the table by the increase in circulation, and by the increase in the number of borrowers' cards, both actually and in proportion to population. The home-use circulation from the branches, which directly serve the people in all parts of the city, has risen from 752,411 volumes to 1,488,746; while the use of books in the Barton-Ticknor Room reflecting to a considerable extent special research, has increased from 10,984 to 13,744. In the Patent Room in 1902 there was a recorded use of 68,335 volumes, consulted by 3,185 persons, rising in 1916 to 108,029 volumes, consulted by 19,564 persons. In the Periodical Room in the earlier year 23,557 bound volumes were consulted during the daytime and 6,921 in the evenings and on Sundays, rising in the later year to 32,647 and 13,296 volumes, respectively.

At the beginning of the period the Library was supplying 40 public schools with books and had sent 11,107 volumes during the year to schools. The corresponding figures for 1916 are 161 schools and 38,400 volumes. There are various phases of the work of the library which have greatly increased, such as the visits of classes to the building, the general use of reference books, and the provision of free lectures. There have also been certain extensions of privilege and modifications of rules, for example, the cancellation at the end of a fixed term of months of fines incurred by children; the lending of books for summer reading beyond the usual two-weeks limit; the extension of hours of Sunday opening, etc.

As I have frequently remarked, results such as have been indicated are due to no one person. The satisfactory operation of the Library, with its promise for the future, requires the loyalty and efficiency of all concerned in its administration, who, moved by a common purpose, work together harmoniously. I wish to acknowledge the assistance, faithfully given, which I have received from heads of departments, custodians of branches, and from members of the staff generally. Our work together terminates not without regret upon my part. And during the past year, as previously, the services of Mr. Otto Fleischner, Assistant Librarian, merit special recognition.

Respectfully submitted,

HORACE G. WADLIN,

Librarian.

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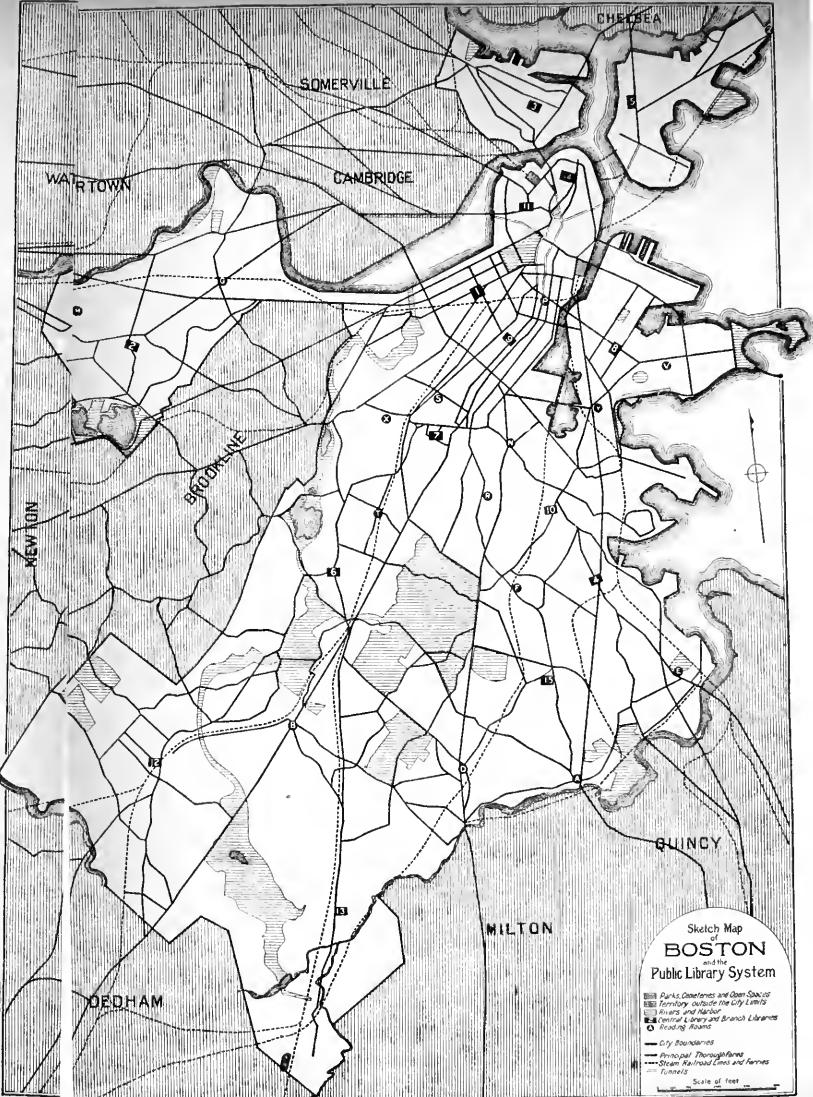
1. Central Library, Copley Square.

BRANCH LIBRARIES, FEBRUARY 1, 1917.

2. Brighton Branch, Holton Library Building, Academy Hill Road.
3. Charlestown Branch, Monument Square, cor. Monument Ave.
4. Dorchester Branch, Arcadia, cor. Adams St.
5. East Boston Branch, 276 - 282 Meridian St.
6. Jamaica Plain Branch, Sedgwick, cor. South St.
7. Roxbury Branch, 46 Millmont St.
8. South Boston Branch, 372 Broadway.
9. South End Branch, 397 Shawmut Ave.
10. Upham's Corner Branch, Columbia Road, cor. Bird St.
11. West End Branch, Cambridge, cor. Lynde St.
12. West Roxbury Branch, Centre, near Mt. Vernon St.
13. Hyde Park Branch, Harvard Ave., cor. Winthrop St.
14. North End Branch, 3a North Bennet St.
15. Codman Square Branch, Washington, cor. Norfolk St., Dorchester.

DELIVERY STATIONS, FEBRUARY 1, 1917.

- A. Lower Mills Reading Room, Washington, cor. Richmond St.
- B. Roslindale Reading Room, Washington, cor. Ashland St.
- D. Mattapan Reading Room, 727 Walk Hill St.
- E. Neponset Reading Room, 362 Neponset Ave.
- F. Mount Bowdoin Reading Room, Washington, cor. Eldon St.
- G. Allston Reading Room, 6 Harvard Ave.
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- R. Warren Street Reading Room, 392 Warren St.
- S. Roxbury Crossing Reading Room, 1154 Tremont St.
- T. Boylston Station Reading Room, The Lamarine, Depot Square.
- V. City Point Reading Room, Municipal Building, Broadway.
- X. Parker Hill Reading Room, 1518 Tremont St.
- Y. Andrew Square Reading Room, 396 Dorchester St.
- Z. Orient Heights Reading Room, 1030 Bennington St.



Area of City (Land only) 45.60 Square miles.



BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BATES HALL.

NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY.